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(54) Recording/reproducing optical disk with zig-zag shifted headers, and recording/reproducing apparatus using same

(57) A recording/reproducing optical disk of the present invention comprises a first recording section formed on a spiral track in an area in the shape of a land, a second recording section formed on the spiral track in an area in the shape of a groove, the second recording section being adjacent to the first recording section, a first half header section in which first address information of the first recording section is recorded, and a second half header section, in which second address information of the second recording section is recorded, and which is disposed in pair with the first half

header section in a zig-zag shifted manner, wherein the first half header section (e.g. HF1) and the second half header section (e.g. HF4) are located ahead of the first recording section (e.g. RF2) to assume a first positional relation relatively to the first recording section and the first half header section (e.g. HF1) and the second half header section (e.g. HF2) are located ahead of the second recording section (e.g. RF5) to assume a second positional relation other than the first positional relation relatively to the second recording section.

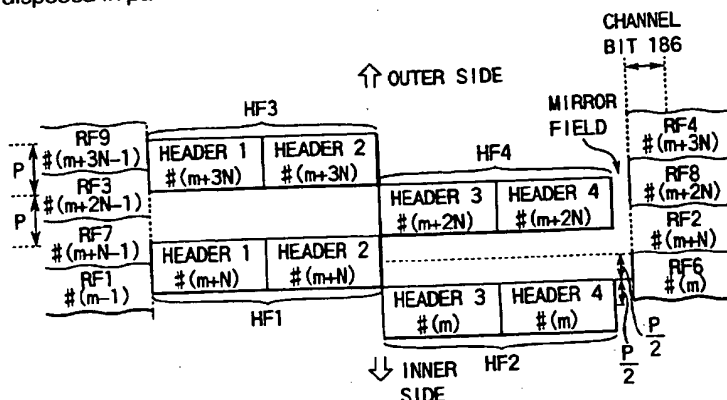


FIG. 1A

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Description

The present invention relates to a recording/reproducing optical disk, in which data recording/reproduction can be conducted by use of a sector disposed along a spiral track as a unit, and to an optical disk reproducing apparatus for data recording/reproducing on the optical disk.

Heretofore, there have been available magneto-optical disks of 120 mm and 90 mm in diameter and a phase change disk of 120 mm in diameter (popular as PD) and the like as so-called rewritable optical disks on the market on which disks data recording/reproducing can be conducted.

These disks comprise guiding grooves for laser light illumination and tracking is carried out by use of analysis on the laser light based on the guiding grooves. The guiding grooves are formed as a continuous spiral which runs from the inner side of the disk to the outer side thereof. Heretofore, the guiding grooves each are referred to simply as "a groove" and a portion other than the grooves are referred to as "a land." In a conventional optical disk, information has been recorded either in a groove or on a land.

Such information on an optical disk is read and written for example, in 512 bytes or 2048 bytes as a unit. This information unit is called "a sector." In this sector, a sector address which indicates a location of the sector is allocated and formatting is conducted according to a predetermined sector format in order to record information to a target address and to reproduce the information with high reliability. In the formatting, information on a sector address is recorded by forming a recess/protrusion profile called "a pit" at a head of the sector. This portion in which the sector address information is recorded is called "a header." In a conventional optical disk, as described above, since information has been recorded in either a groove or a land, a header has been formed either in a groove for groove recording or on a land for land recording.

While a conventional optical disk has recorded information either in a groove or on a land as described above, it is estimated with ease that a more capacity of recording can be realized if both of the groove and the land record information.

However, a problem how a sector address is formed arises in order that information can be recorded in both of the land and the groove. The problem will be described below.

In a conventional optical disk provided with a spiral groove as described above, a groove and a land are formed in parallel to each other. In this case, since the groove and the land are formed on the disk in such a manner that they are parallel to each other while each assuming a spiral, such a structure of the conventional optical disk is hereinafter referred to as "a double spiral structure."

In such a double spiral structure, since grooves and lands are formed in parallel to each other, travel from a groove to a land indispensably requires a track jump. Therefore, whenever recording/reproducing of information is switched from a groove to a land and vice versa, a track jump or a seek is necessary and thereby continuous recording/reproducing of information is hard to be realized.

Besides, when a disk is formatted in such a double spiral structure, there is no way other than a sector in a groove (hereinafter referred to as groove sector) and a sector on a land (hereinafter referred to as land sector) are separately formatted. That means that there arises inconvenience when a disk is formatted, for example by a zone CAV format, so that recording/reproducing of information can alternately be conducted on a land or in a groove adjacent to each other.

That is, in order that a land and a groove adjacent to each other have sector addresses numbered in a continuous manner. Either grooves or lands are required to be independently formatted, while being separately assigned with addresses in an intermittent manner. In this case, unless travel from a land to a groove or vice versa is smoothly performed, there arises a disk rotational delay time, which causes a problem of interference with realization of continuous recording/reproducing of information.

In addition, there has been an issue desired to be achieved that a distance between pits in a header is secured as much as possible and thereby reading on the header can be performed in a more stabilized manner.

It is an object of the present invention to provide an optical disk information medium with higher reliability in which there can be realized reading on a header and detection of a switch-over position between a land and a groove in a stabilized manner by disposing header areas on the optical disk in a zig-zag shifted manner and an optical disk fabricating apparatus for the same medium.

The present invention, as claimed in claims 1 to 6, is directed to a data recording/reproducing optical disk comprising: a first recording section RF1, RF3, RF2, RF4, which is an area in the shape of a land formed on a spiral track, and in which data recording/reproducing is conducted; a second recording section RF5, RF7, RF6, RF8 adjacent to the first recording section, which is an area in the shape of a groove formed on the spiral track, and in which data recording/reproducing is conducted; a first half header section HF1, HF3, in which first address information corresponding to the first recording section is recorded; and a second half header section HF2, HF4, in which second address information corresponding to the second recording section is recorded, and which is disposed in a zig-zag shifted manner in pair with the first half header section, wherein when the first half header section e.g. HF1 and the second half header section e.g. HF4 are located ahead of the first recording sections e.g. RF2, both half header sections are located to

assume a first positional relation relatively to the first recording section and when the first half header section e.g. HF1 and the second half header section e.g. HF2 are located ahead of the second recording section e.g. RF5, both half header sections are located to assume a second positional relation other than the first positional relation relatively to the second recording section.

The present invention has a configuration in which the first half header section HF1, HF3 and the second half headers HF2, HF4 are disposed in a zig-zag shifted manner with a space therebetween as shown in FIG. 1A and therefore 1) reliability in reading is increased because a margin in distance between adjacent pits is provided, 2) a narrow beam exclusively used for a header is not necessary any longer and thus cutting can be possible by one beam with a high speed and 3) a switch-over position between a land and a groove can be detected with ease.

That is, according to a structure A as shown in FIG. 7, since there is no blank in a header section 103 lying between recording sections 101 and 105, a distance between pits are smaller and thereby an error in data reading has a chance to arise.

On the other hand, according to a structure C of the present invention, since there is provided with a blank, a sufficient margin is available in distance between pits, whereby reliability in address reading can be improved.

For this reason, since a cutting process also has a sufficient margin in distance between pits according to a constitution of the present invention, one beam can commonly be used for cutting of recording and address sections and both cuttings are thereby conducted in one operation. Therefore, there arises no requirement for having an exclusively used beam for cutting a header, as is in the case of the structure A. Thus, a speedy cutting process can be realized.

In an optical disk having such a double spiral structure as used in the present invention, there arises a necessity for detection of switch-over in tracking polarity between land and groove areas. A positional relation of headers which are located in a zig-zag shifted manner in the present invention, in other words, wobbling of each header can be utilized for detection of timing in switch-over between a land and a groove. That is, a photodetector cell, which analyzes a reflecting light from a disk, outputs a first signal A corresponding to the outer side of a recording track and a second signal B corresponding to the inner side thereof, and in addition detects the difference between the signals as (A-B). The signal difference (A-B) assumes (A-B) > 0 for a header which wobbles to the outer side, that is a positive sign [+], and on the other hand the difference assumes (A-B) < 0 for a header which wobbles to the inner side, that is a positive sign [-]. With detection of the signal change in a header, a polarity change in signal of [-] to [+] (FIG. 8A) can tell that the header comes ahead of a recording section of the land sector and the polarity change in signal of [+] to [-] (FIG. 8B) can tell that the header comes ahead of a recording section of the group sector.

In addition, the present invention, as claimed in claims 7 to 9, is directed to a data recording/reproducing optical disk comprising: a plurality of land sectors RF1, RF2, RF3, RF4, HF1, HF3, wherein a predetermined number of land sectors are disposed on a spiral track on a disk along one track round and a land sector is an area in the shape of a land where data recording/reproducing is conducted and disposed on the spiral track, the land sector including: a first recording section RF1, RF2, RF3, RF4 and a first half header section HF1, HF3, which indicates address information of the first recording section, and which is located ahead of the first recording section; and a plurality of groove sectors RF5, RF6, RF7, RF8, HF2, HF4, wherein a predetermined number of groove sectors are disposed in parallel to the predetermined number of land sectors in alternate manner, the plurality of groove sectors and the plurality of land sectors are disposed on tracks alternately continuously in a radial direction, one round of land sectors and one round of groove sectors being directly adjacent to each other, and a groove sector is an area in the shape of a groove where data recording/reproducing is conducted and disposed on the spiral track, the groove sector including: a second recording section RF5, RF6, RF7, RF8 and a second half header section HF2, HF4, which has address information of the second recording section, and which is disposed ahead of the second recording section in a zig-zag shifted manner in pair with the first header section.

It is understood that in the claims 7 to 9, the optical disk of the present invention has a constitution that a land area and a groove area are alternately disposed on the disk in a radial direction and thus a continuous recording area is provided, and in addition the plurality of headers having a configuration in a zig-zag shifted manner are specified in detail.

In such a structure, improvement on reading reliability, speedy cutting with one kind of beam and easy detection of switch-over positions between land and groove sectors can be realized.

The present invention, as claimed in claims 10 to 17, is directed to a data recording/reproducing optical disk recording/reproducing apparatus using a data recording/reproducing optical disk comprising: a first recording section RF1, RF3, RF2, RF4, which is an area in the shape of a land formed on a spiral track, and in which data recording/reproducing is conducted; a second recording section RF5, RF7, RF6, RF8 adjacent to the first recording section, which is an area in the shape of a groove formed on a spiral track, and in which data recording/reproducing is conducted; a first half header section HF1, HF3, in which first address information corresponding to the first recording section is recorded; and a second half header section HF2, HF4, in which second address information corresponding to the second recording section is recorded, and which is disposed in a zig-zag shifted manner in pair with the first half header section, wherein when the first half header section e.g. HF1 and the second half header section e.g. HF4 are located ahead of the first

recording sections e.g. RF2, both half header sections are located to assume a first positional relation relatively to the first recording section and when the first half header section e.g. HF1 and the second half header section e.g. HF2 are located ahead of the second recording section e.g. RF5, both half header sections are located to assume a second positional relation other than the first positional relation relatively to the second recording section, the apparatus comprising: light illuminating means for illuminating the first half header sections, the second half header section, the first recording section and the second recording section with a light beam; control means for controlling an illuminating position of the light beam based on a change in characteristics of reflecting light of the light beam from the illuminating means in order to direct the light beam to a predetermined position on the optical disk; and data recording/reproducing means for detecting a switch-over position between the first recording section and the second recording section based on a reflecting light reflected from the first half header section and the second half header section produced by illumination of the light beam from the illuminating means and executing data recording/reproducing on the optical disk based on the detection of the switch-over position.

The present invention, as described above, is to provide with a data recording/reproducing optical disk recording/reproducing apparatus which executes read/write of data on the data recording/reproducing disk, which has headers disposed in a zig-zag shifted manner, and the claims are respectively recited so as correspond to the claims 1 to 9, which specify disks. Thereby, a switch-over position between a land section and a groove section can be detected with high reliability by detecting wobble of each of headers.

Furthermore, each of claims 18 to 20 is concerned with a data recording/reproducing optical disk recording/reproducing apparatus, wherein it is specified that a light beam is intentionally shifted toward the inner side of the optical disk by a predetermined deviation from the center of a track.

With use of the apparatus, a light beam spot can be traced in a condition that the light beam spot is maintained in the same track and not only when switch-over of tracking polarity is not conducted but even when switch-over of tracking polarity is not successfully conducted, normal tracking control can be assured without any radical deviation therefrom.

This summary of the invention does not necessarily describe all necessary features so that the invention may also be a sub-combination of these described features.

The invention can be more fully understood from the following detailed description when taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which:

FIGS. 1A and 1B are representations as models illustrating constitutions of headers in sectors of a recording/reproducing optical disk pertaining to an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 2 is diagram showing a master disk recording apparatus for recording a recess and protrusion profile corresponding to a groove and a pit on a master disk by cutting in a fabricating process for a recording/reproducing optical disk pertaining to an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 3A is a representation showing the entire structure of a sector on a recording/reproducing optical disk pertaining to an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 3B is a representation in a more detailed manner showing a header section of the sector of FIG. 3A;

FIG. 4 is a block diagram showing the overall constitution of an optical disk apparatus used for information recording/reproducing on a recording/reproducing optical disk pertaining to an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 5 is a presentation as a model showing header sections disposed in a zig-zag shifted manner and a structure in the neighborhood of the header sections pertaining to an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 6 is a view as a model showing a format, in which a plurality of annular zones partitioned are provided, of an recording/reproducing optical disk pertaining to an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 7 is representations illustrating stages of development in creation of the present invention; and

FIGS. 8A and 8B are graphs showing signal changes in reading on zig-zag shift headers of the present invention.

Embodiments of the invention of the present application will be described in reference to the accompanying drawings below.

FIGS. 1A and 1B shows as models constitutions of headers in sectors of a recording/reproducing optical disk pertaining to an embodiment of the present invention. An optical disk having header sections of structures which are shown in FIGS. 1A and 1B changes a tracking polarity alternatively in the order of land, groove, land and groove between successive rounds without any track jump when a track is traced in a spiral manner. These structures will be described.

FIG. 1A shows header sections in sectors in switch-over conditions of a tracking polarity. A sector in a switch-over condition of a tracking polarity is hereinafter referred to as first sector in the rest of the specification. FIG. 1B shows the structure of header sections in sectors other than the first sector. In a structure in which groove and land sectors are switched over to each other between successive rounds, as mentioned above, there is a necessity for switching a track polarity to select a sector between groove and land sectors in tracking and a configuration of sectors in a switch-over condition assumes a different header configuration from the other sectors.

A header section shown by Header 1, Header 2, Header 3 and Header 4 is an area where a recess/protrusion pro-

file called "bit" is formed and address information on a sector is recorded by the recess/protrusion profile. Information recording areas indicated by RF1 to RF8 and R1 to R8 are areas made of, for example a recording film of a phase change type and hereinafter referred to as "a recording section." In the case of a phase change recording film, a difference in reflectance caused by a change in an optical property between a crystalline state and amorphous state of the recording film is utilized by a user for recording reproducing of information. RF5 to RF8 and R5 to R8 in the recording section each indicate a recording section for a sector in which a guide groove is formed and hereinafter referred to as recording section of a groove sector. On the other hand, RF1 to RF4 and R1 and R2 each indicate a recording section of a sector provided in a portion which is not a guide groove, and which is adjacent to a groove sector, and hereinafter referred to as recording section of a land sector.

In FIGS. 1A and 1B, an arrow with OUTER SIDE drawn in the upper side points to the outer side of a disk and an arrow with INNER SIDE drawn in the lower side points to the inner side of the disk. Therefore, a direction of the upper to lower side or vice versa corresponds to a radial direction. Besides, # (m + N), # (n + N) and the like are sector numbers indicating sector addresses, wherein m and n indicate integers and N indicates the number of sectors along one round of a track, for example the number is a predetermined integer falling in the range of 17 to 40.

Description on FIG. 1A will be given in a more detailed manner. In FIG. 1A, shown is a first sector on 4 tracks having sector numbers # m, # (m + N), # (m + 2N) and # (m + 3N). A header section in the first sector is formed by cutting in a quadruple write structure. Portions of a quadruply written header section respectively correspond to Header 1, Header 2, Header 3 and Header 4. Header 1 and Header 2 constitute a first half header section and Header 3 and Header 4 constitute a second half header section. The first header section is used as a header section for a land sector and the second header section is used as a header section for a groove sector.

Further description on FIG. 1A will be continued in a concrete manner. For a recording section RF5 of a groove sector # (m) whose address is indicated by a sector number # (m), a second half header section HF2, which is provided at a head portion of the recording section RF5 with Mirror Field (hereinafter referred to as mirror section) being inserted therebetween, is used as a header section of the sector. In this case, the second half header section HF2 comprises Header 3 and Header 4 in which address information of the sector number # (m) is recorded. The second half header section HF2 is shifted by a half of a track pitch toward the inner side relatively to a position where the recording section RF5 of the groove sector # (m) is formed, that is the second half header section HF2 is parallel-translated sideways for displacement. The track pitch is a distance between centers of a land and a groove which adjacent to each other, which is a distance shown by a mark P in FIG. 1A.

For a recording section RF2 of a land sector # (m + N) whose address is indicated by a sector number # (m + N), a first half header section HF1, which is provided at a forward position of the recording section RF2 with not only a mirror section but in addition a space corresponding to the second half header section HF2 inserted therebetween, is used as a header section of the sector. In this case, the first half header section HF1 comprises Header 1 and Header 2, in which address information of the sector number # (m + N) is recorded. That is, the first half header section HF1 shows address information which is different from address information shown by the second half header section by one round of a track and to be more precise, the first half header section HF1 shows address information which is different from the second half header section HF2 by one round of a track toward the outer side. The first half header section HF1 is formed at a position which is shifted by a half of a track pitch toward the inner side relatively to a position where the recording section RF2 of the land sector # (m + N) is located.

In this case, the recording section RF2 of the land sector # (m + N) is formed in an adjacent manner to the recording section RF5 of the groove sector # (m). That is, the recording section RF2 of the land sector # (m + N) is formed at a position toward the outer side relatively to the recording section RF5 of the groove sector # (m) by one track pitch. Thus, the first header section HF1 is formed toward the outer side relatively to the second header section HF2 by one track pitch. The first header section HF1 and the second header section HF 2 are fabricated in a continuous manner by cutting described later and Header 2 in the first header section HF1 and Header 3 in the second header section HF2 are located in an adjacent manner. With such a configuration, the first header section HF1 and the second header section HF2 constitute a zig-zag shift structure of headers as a pair.

A recording section RF1 of a land sector # (m - 1) whose address is indicated by a sector number by one younger than the sector number # (m) for the recording section RF5 in the groove sector # (m) is fabricated on the same track as the recording section RF5 of the groove sector # (m) with a space occupied by the first half header section HF1 interposing between the recording section RF1 and the head portion of the second half header section HF2 which is a header section of the group sector # (m), that is a Header 3 portion. In a similar manner to this, a recording section RF6 of a groove sector # (m + N - 1) whose address is indicated by a address number by one younger than the sector number # (m + N) for the recording section RF2 in the land sector # (m + N) is fabricated on the same track as the recording section RF2 in the land sector # (m + N) in an adjacent manner to the head portion of the first half header section HF1 which is a header section of the land sector # (m + N), that is in adjacent manner to a Header 1 portion.

Then FIG. 1B will be described below. In FIG. 1B, shown are sectors including three tracks of sector numbers of # n, # (n + N) and # (n + 2N). A header section in the sector is formed in a similar manner to in the case of the first sector

by cutting described later in a quadruple write structure. Portions of a quadruply written header section are respectively called as Header 1, Header 2, Header 3 and Header 4, in a similar manner to in the case of the first sector and Header 1 and Header 2 constitute a first half header used as a header section of the land sectors and Header 3 and Header 4 constitute a second half header section used as a header section of the groove sectors.

Further description will be continued in a concrete manner. For a recording section R6 of a groove sector # (n) whose address is indicated by a sector number # (n), a second half header section H2, which is provided at a head portion of the recording section R6 with a mirror section being inserted therebetween, is used as a header section of the sector. In this case, the second half header section H2 comprises Header 3 and Header 4 in which address information of the sector number # (n) is recorded. The second half header section H2 is shifted by a half of a track pitch toward the inner side relatively to a position where the recording section R6 of the groove sector # (n) is formed, that is the second half header section H2 is parallel-translated sideways for displacement.

For a recording section R2 of a land sector # (n + N) whose address is indicated by a sector number # (n + N), a first half header section H1, which is provided at a forward position of the recording section R2 with not only a mirror section but in addition a space corresponding to the second header section H2 inserted therebetween, is used as a header section of the sector. In this case, the first half header section H1 comprises Header 1 and Header 2, in which address information of the sector number # (n + N) is recorded. The first half header section H1 is formed at a position which is shifted by a half of a track pitch toward the inner side relatively to a position where the recording section R2 of the land sector # (n + N) is located.

In this case, the recording section R2 of the land sector # (n + N) is formed in an adjacent manner to the recording section R6 of the groove sector # (n). That is, the recording section R2 of the land sector # (n + N) is formed at a position toward the outer side relatively to the recording section R6 of the groove sector # (n) by one track pitch. Thus, the first header section H1 is formed toward the outer side relatively to the second half header section H2 by one track pitch. The first half header section H1 and the second half header section H2 are fabricated in a continuous manner by cutting described later and Header 2 in the first half header section H1 and Header 3 in the second header section H2 are located in an adjacent manner. With such a configuration, the first half header section H1 and the second header section H2 constitute a zig-zag shift structure of headers.

A sector whose address is indicated by a sector number by one younger than the sector number # (n) for the recording section R6 in the groove sector # (n) is a groove sector # (n - 1), which is different from the case of the first sector. A recording section R5 of the groove sector # (n - 1) is fabricated on the same track as the recording section R6 of the groove sector # (n) with a space occupied by the first half header section H1 interposing between the recording section R5 and the head portion of the second half header section H2 which is a header section of the groove sector # (n). In a similar manner to this, a sector whose address is indicated by an address number by one younger than the sector number # (n + N) for the recording section R2 in the land sector # (n + N) is a land sector # (n + N - 1). A recording sector R1 of the land sector # (n + N - 1) is fabricated on the same track as the recording section R2 in the land sector # (n + N) in an adjacent manner to the head portion of the first half header section H1 which is a header section of the land sector # (n + N).

Fabrication of a recording/reproducing optical disk having the structure described above will be described.

When an optical disk is fabricated, a master disk having a recess/protrusion profile corresponding to a groove and a pit is first of all fabricated by a method called cutting. The recess/protrusion profile formed on the master disk is transferred to a stamper and with use of the stamper as a die, a resin molding transferred with the profile is fabricated. This resin molding is used as a substrate for an optical disk and a recording film such as a phase change type film is formed on a profiled surface of the substrate by a method such as a vapor deposition method or the like. Then, a protective film for protecting the recording film is formed by a method such as coating or the like. In such a manner, fabrication of an optical disk on which a groove and a pit are formed is conducted. It is also possible to fabricate a bonding type optical disk by bonding the above mentioned optical disks with each other with an intermediate layer made of a material similar to the protective layer.

In FIG. 2, shown is a master disk recording apparatus for recording a recess and protrusion profile corresponding to a groove and a pit on a master disk by cutting.

In the master disk recording apparatus, laser light (for example, Ar laser or Kr laser light) emitted from a laser light source 41 is projected into a laser optical axis control system 42 adjusting an optical axis to cope with a change in optical axis caused by a change in temperature of laser light or the like. The laser light is reflected on a mirror 43 and modulated in a beam modulation system 44 comprising E - O modulators 44a, 44b controlled by a format circuit 49 into laser light having an arbitrary signal. At this point, the laser light can be modulated into a predetermined format signal. The format circuit 49 conducts control of the beam modulation system 44 so that the laser light is modulated in accordance with a cutting action described later. Then, the laser light is adjusted in its beam diameter and sectional shape by passing a beam adjustment system 45 composed of a pin hole and a slit. Adjustment of the laser light is finished in the process mentioned above and a beam shape can be confirmed with a beam monitoring system 46.

The laser light is further guided by a mirror 47 and converged for illumination on an optical recording master disk

40 by an objective lens 48. As the optical recording master disk 40, for example, a glass disk is used. A photoresist is coated on the glass disk and the surface of the photoresist is illuminated with the laser light. An optically activated portion produces a recess type profile by etching. A desired surface profile formed by the laser light illumination is thus obtained and a groove and a format pattern are recorded. Thus treated glass disk is used as a master disk, which is utilized to fabricate a stamper.

In cutting, the glass disk 40 is rotated by a rotating means 39 for rotating, for example, a motor or the like at a predetermined speed. An optical pickup for illuminating a predetermined position on the glass disk 40 with the laser light is moved at a constant speed along a direction from the inner side to outer side. In cutting, the optical pickup is moved at an equal speed in terms of a rate of one track pitch per one rotation of the disk and an illuminating position of the laser light is moved in company with the movement of the optical pickup. With thus moving optical pickup, a portion on which laser light is directed is processed to a groove and a portion to which laser light is not directed is left unprocessed as a land. In a header section, laser light is turned on and off to produce a pit in the shape of a recess/protrusion profile.

Then, a cutting action in an embodiment of the present invention will be described in reference to FIGS. 1A and 1B.

In FIG. 1A, it is assumed that a cutting treatment for the recording section RF1 in the land sector # (m - 1) whose address is indicated by the selector number # (m - 1) is finished at a time t0. As described above, in a land area such as the recording section RF1 in the land sector # (m - 1), laser light from the optical pickup is not projected on the area and a laser light illuminating position is only traveled. The traveling of the laser light illuminating position is achieved by a combination of rotation of an optical disk, movement of the light pickup and driving of an objective lens mounted to the light pickup.

After a treatment on the recording section RF1 in the land sector # (m - 1) is finished at the time t0, the laser light illuminating position is in succession shifted toward the outer side by a half of a track pitch from the center of the track of the recording RF1 in the land sector # (m - 1). At thus shifted track position, Header 1 and Header 2 whose sector number is assigned as # (m + N), that is the first half header section HF1 is recorded. At this point, the laser light radiated from the light pickup is turned on and off so that a pit is formed in a corresponding manner to information expressing a sector number. Header 1 in the first half header HF1 is recorded in an adjacent manner to the recording section RF1 in the land sector # (m - 1). After the recording of Header 1, Header 2 in the first half section HF1 is recorded in succession to Header 1.

After record-cutting for Header 1 and Header 2 whose sector number is assigned as # (m + N), that is the first half header section HF1 is finished, the laser light illuminating position is in succession shifted toward the inner side by a half of a track pitch from the center of the track of Header 1 and Header 2. That is, the laser light illuminating position is shifted toward the inner side by one of a track pitch from the center of the track of the recording section RF1 in the land sector # (m - 1). Header 3 and Header 4 whose sector number is # (m), that is the second-half header section HF2 are recorded at the track position of such a shift. At this point, the laser light is turned on and off so that a pit corresponding information expressing the sector number is formed. Header 3 in the second half header section HF2 is recorded in an adjacent manner to Header 2 in the first half header section HF1. After the recording of Header 3, Header 4 is continuously recorded following Header 3.

After cutting for Header 3 and Header 4, whose sector number is # (m), that is the second half section HF2 are finished, cutting for recording is subsequently conducted for the recording section RF5 in the groove sector # (m) following the mirror section. At this point, laser light is not irradiated on the mirror section. The laser light illuminating position is shifted toward the outer side by a half of a track pitch from the center of the track of Header 3 and Header 4 with the sector number # (m). That is, the laser light illuminating position is shifted to not only the same track position as the track center of the recording section RF1 in the land sector # (m - 1) but also a track position located toward the inner side by a half of a track pitch from the track center of Header 1 and Header 2 with the sector number # (m + N).

Cutting for recording is conducted for the recording section RF5 in the groove sector # (m) at thus shifted track position. In the recording section RF 5 in the groove sector # (m), laser light is irradiated and a groove is formed by etching of a photoresist. At this point, a laser light spot is subjected to for example, a sine wave oscillation in a 186 channel bit period along a direction from the inner side to the outer side, that is along a radial direction to fabricate a groove in the form of a wave. A signal component obtained from the groove in the form of the wave is utilized as a reference signal for generation of clock in a data write operation (that is, when information is recorded on a recording/reproducing optical disk).

In the one round of a track from the sector number # (m) to the sector number # (m + N - 1), all the sectors are groove sectors. In the groove sectors, the cutting for recording is conducted by predetermined procedures described below. The cutting except a first sector will be described in reference to FIG. 1B.

In FIG. 1B, it is assumed that a cutting treatment for the recording section R5 in the groove sector # (n - 1), whose address is indicated by the selector number # (n - 1), is finished at a time t1. After a treatment on the recording section R5 in the groove sector # (n - 1) is finished, the laser light illuminating position is in succession shifted toward the outer side by a half of a track pitch from the track center of the recording section R5 in the groove sector # (n - 1). Header 1 and Header 2 whose selector number is # (n + N), that is the first half header section H1 is recorded at the track position

of such a shift. At this point, the laser light radiating from the optical pickup is turned on and off so that a pit is formed in a corresponding manner to information expressing a selector number. Header 1 in the first half header section H1 is recorded in an adjacent manner to the recording sector R5 in the land sector # (n - 1). After the recording Header 1 is finished, Header 2 in the first half header section H1 is recorded in succession to Header 1.

When cutting for recording for Header 1 and Header 2 with the sector number # (n + N), that is the first half header section H1 is finished, subsequently, the laser light illuminating position is shifted toward the inner side by a half of a track pitch from the track center of Header 1 and Header 2. That is, the laser light illuminating position is shifted toward the inner side by a half of a track pitch from the track center in the recording section R5 in the groove sector # (n - 1). Header 3 and Header 4 with the sector number # (n), that is the second half header section H2 is recorded at the position of such a shift. At this point, the laser light radiating from the optical pickup is turned on and off so that a pit corresponding to information expressing a sector number is formed. Header 3 in the second half section H2 is recorded in an adjacent manner to Header 2 in the first half header section H1. After recording for Header 3 is finished, Header 4 in the second half header section H2 is recorded in a successive manner to Header 3.

After Header 3 and Header 4 with the sector number # (n), that is the second half header section H2 is finished, cutting for recording for the recording section R6 in the groove sector # (n) is subsequently conducted after the passage of a mirror section. At this point, laser light is not illuminated on the mirror section. The laser light illuminating position is shifted toward the outer side by a half of a track pitch from the track center of Header 3 and Header 4 with the sector number # (n). That is, the laser light illuminating position is shifted to not only the same track position as the track center of the recording section R5 in the groove sector # (n - 1) but also a track position located toward the inner side by a half of a track pitch from the track center of Header 1 and Header 2 with the sector number # (n + N).

Cutting for recording is conducted for the recording section R6 in the groove sector # (n) at the track position of such a shift. In the recording section R6 in the groove sector # (n), laser light is irradiated and a groove is formed by etching of a photoresist. At this point, a laser light spot is subjected to for example, a sine wave oscillation in a 186 channel bit period along a direction from the inner side to the outer side, that is along a radial direction to fabricate a groove in the form of a wave. A signal component obtained from the groove in the form of the wave is utilized as a reference signal for generation of clock in a data write operation.

With repetition of the cutting actions from the group sector # (n - 1) to the group sector # (n) are repeated in a similar manner, achieved is the cutting for recording from the recording section RF5 with the sector number # (m) to the recording section RF6 with the sector number # (m + N - 1), which is shown in FIG. 1A.

After the cutting for recording on the recording section RF5 in the groove sector # (m) to the recording section RF6 in the groove sector # (m + N - 1) is finished, a cutting treatment on the first sector shown in FIG. 1A is again conducted. The first sector at this time is the land sector # (m + N) following the groove sector # (m + N - 1). One round of a track of the sector number # (m + N) of the land sector # (m + N) to the sector number # (m + 2N - 1) are all of a land sector. Therefore, In the one round of a track from the sector number # (m + N) to the sector number # (m + 2N - 1), laser light is not turned on. Header sections of the land sections are already simultaneously formed in the cutting of groove sectors on the inner side.

After the cutting treatment on the land sector with the sector number # (m + N) to the land sector with the sector number # (m + 2N - 1) is over, the first sector is again subjected to a cutting treatment. The first sector at this time is the groove sector # (m + 2N) following the land sector # (m + 2N - 1). Sectors following the groove sector # (m + 2N) are cut in a similar manner to the cutting conducted on and from the groove sectors # (m). With repetition of the cutting action, sectors having header sections of a structure shown in FIG. 1A can be fabricated.

If the cutting for recording described above is conducted, a header section in a groove sector, that is the second half header section comprising Header 3 and Header 4 and a recording section in a groove sector with the same sector number as the sector number of the header section are cut for recording in a continuous manner. For example, the second half header section HF2 comprising Header 3 and Header 4 with the sector number # (m) and the recording section RF5 in the groove sector # (m) are continuously cut.

However, a header section in a land sector, that is the first half header section comprising Header 1 and Header 2 and a recording section in a land sector with the same sector number as the sector number for the header section are not cut for recording in a continuous manner but recorded on different tracks by one round of track. For example, the first half header section HF1 comprising Header 1 and Header 2 with the sector number # (m + N) and the recording section RF2 in the land sector # (m + N) are recorded in different tracks by one round of track. Therefore, if there is a difference between one period of rotation of a disk and one period of a recording signal for N sector, cutting for recording is conducted with a discrepancy arising between a header section in a land sector and a recording section in a land sector whose sector number is shown with the header section.

Described will be a sector format according to an embodiment of the invention of the present application which enable a header section to be detected with high reliability even when recording/reproduction of information is conducted on an optical disk fabricated by the cutting for recording with such a discrepancy in a header section.

FIG. 3A shows the entire structure of a sector according to an embodiment of the invention of the present invention.

FIG. 3B shows a header section of the sector in a more detailed manner.

In FIG. 3A, the total byte number of a sector is 2697 bytes, which comprises: Header field of 128 bytes (hereinafter referred to as header section); Mirror field of 2 bytes (hereinafter referred to as mirror section); Recording field of 2567 bytes (hereinafter referred to as recording section). The header section, mirror section and recording section indicate the same as those corresponding in description in reference to FIGS. 1A and 1B.

The header and mirror sections are portions in which recording has been conducted as a recess/protrusion profile before shipment of an optical disk. An operation is called preformat in which recording according to a predetermined format is conducted as a recess/protrusion profile in advance in such a manner before shipment is called preformat.

A recording section is a portion where information discernible based on an address information shown by a corresponding header section is recorded according to a predetermined format by a user of an optical disk after shipment of the optical disk. The recording section is a portion as a recording area of information fabricated only in the form of a groove or land when the preformat is conducted.

Recording of information on a recording section, for example, in the case where an optical disk is of a phase change type is carried out by: irradiating laser light which is modulated in a corresponding manner to recording information on a recording film of a phase change type provided in the recording section; and forming areas in a crystalline state or in an amorphous state on the recording film of a phase change type by modulation of the laser light. The user of the optical disk reproduces the information by utilizing a difference in reflectance based on a change in optical property between crystalline and amorphous states of the recording film in the recording section.

The recording section is recorded by a format comprising: a gap section (Gap field) of $(10 + J/10)$ bytes; a guard section (Guard 1 field) of $(20 + K)$ bytes; a VFO 3 section (VFO 3 field) of 35 bytes; a PS section (PS field) of 3 bytes; a data section (Data field) of 2418 bytes; a PA 3 section (PA 3 field) of 1 byte; a guard 2 section (Guard 2 field) of $(55 - K)$ bytes; and a buffer section (Buffer field) of $(25 - J/16)$ bytes, wherein J is an integer in the range of 0 to 15, K is an integer in the range of 0 to 7 and both assume random values.

FIG. 3B shows a content of a header section in a sector format of an optical disk according to an embodiment of the invention of the present application. The header section comprises: Header 1 field; Header 2 field; Header 3 field; and Header 4 field. These indicate the same as Header 1; Header 2; Header 3; and Header 4 described in reference to FIGS. 1A and 1B. These are hereinafter respectively referred to as Header 1; Header 2; Header 3; and Header 4. Lengths for Headers are: 46 bytes for Header 1; 18 bytes for Header 2; 46 bytes for Header 3; and 18 bytes for Header 4, and the total length of the header section is 128 bytes.

Each of Header 1, Header 2, Header 3 and Header 4 comprises: a VFO section; a AM section; a PID section; an IED section; and a PA section. The structure will be described below.

A VFO is an abbreviation of Voltage Frequency Oscillator and an area for enabling PLL (Phase-Locked-Loop) to function in a proper manner. That is, the VFO section comprises continuously repeated data patterns, which patterns are read by an optical disk recording/reproducing apparatus described later which performs information recording/reproducing on an optical disk, from which a synchronization signal (clock signal), which is used for data read, rotational speed control of an optical disk and the like, is extracted to a PLL circuit incorporated in the optical disk recording/reproducing apparatus. The data patterns are in a continuous manner repeated to lock PLL into establish a perfect synchronization. If PLL is locked in a data pattern to establish perfect synchronization and produce a clock signal, data reading, disk rotational speed control and the like can be realized with certainty since a code pattern of the VFO is changed in company with a change in rotation of an optical disk.

The VFO section has a length of 36 bytes as a VFO1 in Header 1 and Header 3 and on the other hand, a length of 8 bytes as VFO2 in Header 2 and Header 4. That is, as described above, a first half comprises Header 1 and Header 2, which is used as a header section for a land sector and a VFO section of Header 1, which is a head portion in the first half header section, is set to be longer than a VFO section of Header 2 on which laser light is applied after irradiation on Header 1. In a similar manner to this, a second half header section comprises Header 3 and Header 4, which is used as a header section of a groove sector and a VFO section of Header 3, which is a head portion in the second half header section, is set to be longer than a VFO section of Header 4 on which laser light is irradiated after irradiation on Header 3. A VFO section of each sector has at least a length of 8 bytes and PLL can usually function in a proper manner with use of such a length of a VFO section.

Since the VFO section of Header 1 and the VFO section of Header 3 which are correspond with head portions of the sectors are set to be both longer than the VFO section of Header 2 and the VFO section of Header 4, PLL can be function with certainty with the help of a VFO section. Therefore, detection of each of the header sections can be conducted with high reliability, whereby information recording/reproducing can be achieved to more of precision.

Among them, it is especially effective, as described above, in information recording/reproducing on an optical disk which is fabricated with a discrepancy in the header section of a land sector that a VFO section of Header 1 which is a head portion of a land sector is provided to be longer.

That is, in the case of a land sector, there is a time difference of one round of track between cutting for a header section and cutting for a recording section in the land sector whose sector number is shown by the header section. In

such a condition, if there arises a difference between one period of rotation of a disk and a period of recording signal covering N sectors, cutting for recording is conducted with a discrepancy between the header section in the land sector and the recording section in the land sector whose sector number is shown by the header section. If such a discrepancy arises between the header section and recording section, it is harder to detect the header section than in a normal condition without such a discrepancy. Besides, it is conceived that if there is provided an offset in tracking in addition to the discrepancy of the header section, a difference in quality of a reproductive signal between the header section of a land sector and the recording section of the land sector whose sector number is indicated by the header section and thereby detection of the header section is harder than in a normal condition by such an offset.

Even in such a case, since a VFO section of Header 1 which is a head portion of a land sector is designed to be longer, a function of PLL can be exerted with high reliability, which makes precision in header detection higher, so that a header section can be detected with precision and certainty.

AM is an abbreviation of Address Mark, is a synchronous code having a length of 3 bytes and used for judging a word boundary in demodulation. PID is an abbreviation of Physical ID and comprises a sector information having a length of 1 byte and a sector number having a length of 3 bytes. IED is an abbreviation of ID Error Detection code and a code for error detection of 4 bytes having a length of 2 bytes. PA is an abbreviation of Post Amble and a code having a length of 1 byte which is necessary to establish a state of previous bytes in demodulation.

Description will be given on the case where an emboss section of a recording/reproducing optical disk having headers of such a structure described above, that is a header section, which is constructed from a pit having a recess/protrusion profile, is read in an information recording/reproduction process.

FIG. 4 is a block diagram showing the overall constitution of an optical disk apparatus used for information recording/reproducing on a recording/reproducing optical disk.

In FIG. 4, a recording/reproducing optical disk 1 which is an information recording medium in the shape of a circular plate is rotated by a spindle motor 3, for example, at a constant linear speed. The spindle motor 3 is controlled by a motor control circuit 4. Information recording/reproducing on the optical disk 1 is conducted by an optical pickup 5. The optical pickup 5 is fixed to a driving coil 7 constituting a moving section of a linear motor 6 and the driving coil 7 is connected to a linear motor control circuit 8.

A speed detector circuit 9 is connected to the linear motor control circuit 8 and a speed signal of the optical pickup 5 detected by the speed detector circuit 9 is transmitted to the linear motor control circuit 8. A stationary section of the linear motor 6 is provided with a permanent magnet not shown and the driving coil 7 is activated by the linear motor control circuit 8, whereby the optical pickup 5 is moved along a radial direction of the optical disk 1.

The optical pickup 5 is provided with an objective lens 10 supported by a wire or a leaf spring not shown. The objective lens 10 can be moved along not only a focusing direction (an optical axis direction of the lens) by driving of a driving coil 11 but a tracking direction (a direction orthogonally intersecting an optical axis of the lens) by driving of a driving coil 12.

A laser light beam is emitted from a semiconductor laser oscillator 9 under driving control of a laser control circuit 13. The laser control circuit 13 comprises a modulation circuit 14 and a laser driving circuit 15 and is operated in synchronization with a recording clock signal supplied from a PLL circuit 16. The modulation circuit 14 modulates a recording data supplied from an error correction circuit 32 into a signal suitable for recording, for example an 8 - 16 modulated data. The laser driving circuit 15 drives the semiconductor laser oscillator (or an argon/neon laser oscillator) 19 according to the 8 - 16 modulated data from the modulation circuit 14.

The PLL circuit 16 divides a master frequency generated by a crystal oscillator into a frequency corresponding to recording positions on the optical disk 1 in a recording process, thereby generates not only a recording clock signal but a reproducing clock signal corresponding to a reproduced synchronous code in a reproducing process, and further detects abnormality in frequency of the reproducing clock signal. The detection of frequency abnormality is performed by judging whether or not a frequency of the reproducing clock signal falls in the range of a predetermined frequency corresponding to a recording position on the optical disk 1 from which a data is reproduced. The PLL circuit 16 outputs a recording or reproducing clock signal in a selective manner according to a control signal from CPU 30 and a signal from a binarization circuit 41 in the data reproducing circuit 18.

A laser beam emitted from the semiconductor oscillator 19 is guided through a collimator lens 20, a half prism 21 and an objective lens 10 and finally directed on the optical disk 1. Reflecting light from the optical disk 1 is guided through an objective lens 10, a half prism 21, a collective lens 22 and a cylindrical lens 23 then to a photodetector 24.

The photodetector 24 constructed from light detecting cells 24a, 24b, 24c and 24d, wherein the photodetector 24 is divided in four ways. Among them, output signals from the light detecting cells 24a, 24b, 24c, 24d are respectively supplied through amplifiers 25a, 25b, 25c, 25d to a terminal of an adder 26a, a terminal of an adder 26b, the other terminal of the adder 26a and the other terminal of the adder 26b.

Output signals from the light detecting cells 24a, 24b, 24c, 24d are respectively supplied through amplifiers 25a, 25b, 25c, 25d to a terminal of an adder 26c, a terminal of an adder 26d, the other terminal of the adder 26d and the other terminal of the adder 26c.

An output signal of the adder 26a is supplied to the inversion input terminal of a differential amplifier OP2 and an output signal of the adder 26b is supplied to the non-inversion input terminal of the differential amplifier OP2. The differential amplifier OP2 outputs a signal relating to a focal point in accordance to a difference between output signals of the adders 26a, 26b. The output is supplied to a focusing control circuit 27. An output signal of the focusing control circuit 27 is supplied to a focusing driving coil 12. Thereby, the laser light is controlled on the optical disk 1 to be always in a just focusing condition.

An output signal of the adder 26c is supplied to the inversion input terminal of a differential amplifier OP1 and an output signal of the adder 26d is supplied to the non-inversion terminal of the differential amplifier OP1. The differential amplifier OP1 outputs a track difference signal according to a difference between the signals of the adders 26c, 26d. The output is supplied to a tracking control circuit 28. The tracking control circuit 28 generates a track driving signal according to the track difference signal from the differential amplifier OP1.

The track driving signal output from the tracking control circuit 28 is supplied to a driving coil 11 in a tracking direction. Moreover, the track difference signal used in the tracking control circuit 28 is supplied to the linear motor control circuit 8.

With application of the above described focusing control and tracking control, a change in a reflectance on a pit or the like formed in a corresponding manner to recording information on a track of the optical disk 1 is reflected on a sum signal of output signals of the light detecting cells 24a to 24d of the photodetector 24, that is an output signal of the adder 26e which is the sum of outputs of the adders 26c, 26d. The sum signal is supplied to the data reproducing circuit 18. The data reproducing circuit 18 reproduces a recording data based on a reproducing clock signal from the PLL circuit 16.

The data reproducing circuit 18 not only detects a sector mark in a preformat data based on an output signal of the adder 26e and a reproducing clock signal from the PLL circuit 16, but also reproduces a track number and a sector number as address information from a binarized signal supplied from the PLL circuit 16 based on the binarized signal and the reproducing clock signal from the PLL circuit 16.

A reproducing data of the data reproducing circuit 18 is supplied to an error correction circuit 32. The error correction circuit 32 corrects an error by use of an error correcting code (ECC) in the reproducing data and outputs a recording data supplied from an interface circuit 35 with an error correcting code (ECC) added thereto to a memory 2.

A reproducing data error-corrected in the error correction circuit 32 is supplied to a medium control device 36 as an external device through a bus 29 and the interface circuit 35. A recording data generated from the medium control device 36 is supplied to the error correction circuit 32 through the interface circuit 35 and the bus 29.

When the objective lens 10 is moved by the tracking control circuit 28, the linear motor 6, that is the optical pickup 5, is moved by the linear motor control circuit 8 so that the objective lens 10 is located at a position in the vicinity of the center in the optical pickup 5.

A D/A converter 31 is used for information receiving/supplying between the focusing control circuit 27, the tracking control circuit 28, the linear motor control circuit 8 and the CPU 30 controlling the whole system of the optical disk apparatus.

The CPU 30 controls the motor control circuit 4, the linear motor control circuit 8, the laser control circuit 15, the PLL circuit 16, the data reproducing circuit 18, the focusing control circuit 27, the tracking control circuit 28, the error correction circuit 32 and the like through the bus 29. The CPU 30 conducts a predetermined operation according to a program stored in a memory 2.

Description will be given on reading a header section preformatted on a recording/reproducing optical disk according to the invention of the present application when information recording/reproducing is conducted on the optical disk by the optical disk apparatus having the structure described above in reference to FIG. 1A.

In FIG. 1A, in the case where a header section to be read as a target is, for example, the header section HF2 in the groove sector indicated by the sector number # (m), laser illumination on the recording section RF1 in the land sector indicated by the sector number # (m - 1) is conducted ahead of reading on the header section HF2. The laser light spot directed to the recording section RF1 is moved while following the track center of the recording section RF1. The following of the laser light spot is performed by tracking control in the optical disk apparatus which is already described in reference to FIG. 4.

The laser light directed to the recording section RF1 in the land sector indicated by the sector number # (m - 1) while following the track center subsequently directed to the header sections HF1 and HF2 recorded on the optical disk 1.

As described above, the header sections HF1 and HF2 comprises data of a length of 128 bytes in total. Here, if one byte has a physical length of about 3 μm , the header sections HF1 and HF2 have the total length of about 400 μm physically. If laser light illumination is conducted on the optical disk at a linear speed of about 6 m/s, the laser light spot passes from the header section HF1 to the header section HF2 in about 67 μs .

The light spot can not follow the header sections even when the header sections are changes the locations repeating alternate sharp turns sideways in a zig-zag shifted manner as shown in FIG. 1A since a zone area of the tracking

control system is sufficiently small. Therefore, it may be considered that the light spot follows an imaginary track center. While the imaginary track center is different from the actual track center of the header sections HF1 and HF2, data such as address information and the like preformatted in the headers HF1 and HF2 can sufficiently be read. After the reading on the headers HF1 and HF2 is finished and the mirror section is passed by, laser light radiated from the optical pickup is applied to the recording section RF5 indicated by the selector number # (m) while following the imaginary track center.

In this case, the recording section in a sector which is illuminated with laser light after illumination on the headers HF1 and HF2 is the recording section FR5 in the groove sector. The header section used in a groove sector, as described above, is the second half header section comprising Header 3 and Header 4, and the header HF2 is a second half section in the header sections HF1 and HF2 which are read in advance. Therefore, the second header section HF2 is used as a header section of the recording section RF5 and address information of the recording section RF5 is indicated by the second half header section HF2.

As described above, header sections disposed in a zig-zag shifted manner are formed on an optical disk pertaining to the invention of the present application. Header sections disposed in a zig-zag shifted manner and a structure in the neighborhood of the header sections are shown in FIG. 5 as a model. In the figure, the representation is drawn so that the upper side is the inner side of an optical disk and the lower side is the outer side thereof as shown by white arrows each with an English term. Therefore, the direction from the upper side to the lower side or vice versa corresponds to a radial direction of an optical disk.

In FIG. 5, the case where sector addresses are in the range of 30000 h to 30133 h is exemplified. A letter h to follow the last figure is an abbreviation of the word hexadecimal and it represents that the numbers are of the hexadecimal notation. In FIG. 5, portions in each of which the number of the hexadecimal notation is used are shown as recording sections and portions in each of which the number without the letter h at the end are shown as header sections.

In addition, in recording sections of sectors, the sectors in which sector addresses are respectively indicated by 30000 h, 30001 h, 30010 h, 30022 h, 30023 h ... are shown as groove sectors. The sectors in which sector addresses are indicated by 30011 h, 30012 h, 30021 h, 30033 h, 30034 h ... are shown as groove sectors.

In this case, a header section indicated by a number and a recording section with the same number as that indicating the header section plus the letter h following the number in a combined manner constitute one sector as a pair. In the figure, if a header section indicated by the number 30000 is described as (30000 h) header section and the recording section in a groove sector indicated by 30000 h is described as (30000 h) groove sector recording section, for example, the (30000 h) header section and the (30000 h) groove recording section constitute one sector as a pair. In this case, in the (30000 h) header section, sector information of the sector address 30000 h is recorded in a preformat and a user records information indicated by the sector address 30000 h in the (30000 h) groove sector recording section.

In FIG. 5, The same structure of a header section as that according to the invention of the present application described in reference to FIG. 1 A is shown as a model. In an optical disk comprising header sections formed in the structure shown in FIG. 5, a tracking polarity is alternately switched in a radial direction in a manner such as in the order of land/groove/land/groove, each corresponding to one track round without any track jump when a track is traced in a spiral manner as described in FIG. 1A.

In the case of FIG. 5, the number of sectors in one track round is shown as 17 (11 h in the hexadecimal notation) and when a track is traced in one more round, the number of sector addresses on a track adjacent toward the outer side is an increment of 17. For example, sectors adjacent, toward the outer side, to other sectors whose number of sector addresses is 30000 h have 30011 h as the number of sector addresses.

In FIG. 5, the sectors indicated by 30000 h, 30011 h, 30022 h, 30033 h ... as sector addresses are those at positions where a tracking polarity is switched over and the first sections described above. The sectors indicated by 30010 h, 30021 h, 30032 h, 30043 h ... as sector addresses and in addition, the sectors indicated by 30001 h, 30012 h, 30023 h, 30034 h ... as sector addresses are sectors other than the first sectors.

In a system in which groove sectors and land sectors are alternately switched in a radial direction one track round as a unit as described above, there arises a necessity that a polarity of groove or land is switched over in tracking and sectors located at positions of polarity switch-over have a different header configuration than the other sectors.

For example, the first header section for the (30000 h) groove sector recording section is recorded with the address number of 30011 h in preformat and the second header section therefor is recorded with the address number of 30000 h in preformat. Since the (30000 h) groove sector recording section is of a groove type, the address number of 30000 h recorded in the second half header section is the sector address.

On the other hand, the first half header section for, for example, the (30011 h) land sector recording section is in advance recorded with the address number of 30001 h in preformat and the second half header section therefor is in advance recorded with the address number of 30022 h in preformat. Since the (30011 h) land sector recording section is of a land type, the address number 30001 h recorded in the second header is the sector address.

Positional relations of such a zig-zag shift header configuration will be described in the case of a groove sector as start. There is a positional relation that a first half header section is wobbled to the outer side but a second half header

section is wobbled to the inner side. That is, settings are such that the first half header section is shifted toward the outer side of an optical disk relatively to a track position of the groove sector by a half of a track pitch and the second half header section is shifted toward the inner side of the optical disk by a half of the track pitch. On the hand, in the case of a land sector, a positional relation of headers is reverse to that of the case of a groove sector and a first half header section is wobbled toward the inner side and a second half header section is wobbled toward the outer side.

In a system in which groove sectors and land sectors are alternately switched over in a radial direction one track round as a unit, there arises a necessity that a polarity of groove or land is switched over to the other in tracking. Timing of the switch-over is conducted in dependence to reading on a header section. That is, the header section is read and a correct polarity is selected by discerning whether the recording section is of a land type or of a groove type based on information obtained from the reading before tracking in the recording section following the header section gets started.

At this point, if the following recording section is discerned to be of a land type based on information obtained from the header section, a tracking polarity is selected to be of a land type and tracking in the recording section is then conducted. If, to the contrary, the following recording section is discerned to be of a groove type based on information from the header section, the tracking polarity is selected to be of a groove type and tracking in the recording section is then conducted.

Switching of a tracking polarity is conducted when laser light illuminating position is located in the mirror section (Mirror Field) shown in FIG. 1A. When the position in the mirror section is specified, information obtained from the header section is also utilized. That is, if information can be read from any of Header 1, Header 2, Header 3 and Header 4 which constitute a header section with precision, a position in the mirror can be specified by calculating retroactively from the reading position.

For example, In the case where reading is conducted on Header 1 in an orderly manner, counting of the number of bits gets started at a time when the reading on Header 1 is finished. Since a sector format in the header section is in advance determined as shown in FIG. 3, the number of bits which is counted to reach the mirror section starting at a position where the reading on Header 1 is finished is determined in advance. Therefore, when the predetermined number of bits is counted from the time when the reading on Header 1 is finished, it is assumed that the mirror section is illuminated with the laser and switch-over of the tracking polarity is conducted. After the polarity is switched over to a correct polarity in the mirror section, tracking in a land or groove recording section gets started.

In the land/groove polarity switch-over thus conducted, the above mentioned relation between the inner side wobbling and outer side wobbling can be utilized for detection of timing in the switch-over. Below described will be a constitution for detection of timing in the land/groove switch-over by use of this relation between wobbles to the inner and outer sides.

Timing detection for the land/groove polarity switch-over is conducted by use of the photodetector 24 shown in FIG. 24. The photodetector 24 constructed from light detecting cells 24a, 24b, 24c and 24d, which is a four way division. As already described, outputs signals of the light detecting cell 24a and the light detecting cell 24b are summed in the adder 26c and outputs signals of the light detecting cell 24c and the light detecting cell 24d are summed in the adder 26d.

Output signal of the adder 26c is supplied to the inversion input terminal of the differential amplifier OP 1 and output signal of the adder 26d is supplied to the non-inversion terminal of the differential amplifier OP 1. The differential amplifier OP 1 outputs a track difference signal in accordance to a difference between the output signals of the adders 26c, 26d and the output is supplied to the tracking control circuit 28, whereby the track driving signal is generated by the tracking control circuit 28 in accordance to the track difference signal from the differential amplifier OP 1.

The track driving signal output from the tracking control circuit 28 is supplied to the driving coil 11 in the direction of tracking or the track difference signal used in the tracking control circuit 28 is supplied to the linear motor control circuit 8, and thereby tracking control is conducted.

It is conceived the case where the photodetector 24 is divided into two groups, that is a first pair consisting of the light detecting cells 24a, 24b and a second pair consisting of the light detecting cells 24c, 24d, wherein the two pairs are divided in relation to a direction along a recording track.

For clear description to be facilitated, the following situation and designation are considered. The first light detecting cell pair of the two pairs formed by division in two ways is located in a corresponding manner to the outer side of a recording track and an output signal from the first light detecting cell pair is indicated by A. The second light detecting cell pair of the two pairs formed by division in two ways is located in a corresponding manner to the inner side of the recording track and an output signal from the second light detecting cell pair is indicated by B.

When illumination by a light beam is conducted while following a track, if the light beam travels on a header section wobbled toward the outer side, an output of the signal A is increased but an output of the signal B is decreased. On the other hand, if the light beam travels on a header section wobbled toward the inner side, an output of the signal B is increased but an output of the signal A is decreased. At this point, if a $(A - B)$ signal, which is a difference between both signals is generated, $(A - B) > 0$ in the header section wobbled toward the outer side and $(A - B) < 0$ in the header section wobbled toward the inner side, and $(A - B) = 0$ in the other situation. For simplicity, it is hereinafter adopted that

the condition of $(A - B) > 0$ is indicated by [+], the condition of $(A - B) < 0$ is indicated by [-] and the condition of $(A - B) = 0$ is indicated by [0].

If the $(A - B)$ signal output which is output from such a photodetector 24 is utilized, the $(A - B)$ signal is changed from [+] to [-] prior to illumination of the light beam on the recording section of a groove sector when the light beam travels through the groove sector. This change is shown in a graph of FIG. 8A.

On the other hand, the $(A - B)$ signal output is changed from [-] to [+] prior to illumination of the light beam on the recording section of a land sector when the light beam travels through the land sector. This change is shown in a graph of FIG. 8B. Therefore, it is possible that a polarity change of the $(A - B)$ signal output is monitored by the tracking control circuit with the help of the differential amplifier OP 1 interposing therebetween and detection of land or groove is performed by processing of the CPU 30, whereby timing in land/groove switch-over can be detected.

That is, when the $(A - B)$ signal output is changed from [+] to [-], it is detected that a recording section which the light beam illuminates after the change is the recording section of a groove sector. If the groove sector at this point is a groove sector in the first sector, control is performed so that a tracking polarity is switched over from land to groove in order to have tracking control conducted in an orderly manner.

In a similar manner, when the $(A - B)$ signal output is changed from [-] to [+], it is detected that a recording section which the light beam illuminates after the change is the recording section of a land sector. If the groove sector at this point is a land sector in a first sector, control is performed so that a tracking polarity is switched over from groove to land in order to have tracking control conducted in an orderly manner.

As seen from the description above, if a polarity change in the $(A - B)$ signal output is utilized, timing detection in land/groove polarity switch-over can be effected.

Description will be given on a method in which timing detection in the land/groove polarity switch-over is conducted by use of recording information recorded in preformat in the header on an optical disk, that is sector type bits in the header.

Prior to the description, a header structure shown in FIG. 5 will be described. It has already been described herein that with adoption of the numbering method for a sector address which is described in reference to FIG. 1A, disk cutting for recording of a single spiral structure can be continuously performed from the inner side to the outer side in one operation on an optical disk with zig-zag shift headers as shown in FIG. 5. Recording signals in the cutting are sequentially sent from a format circuit 49 in the master disk recording apparatus shown in FIG. 2 in the following order and the beam modulation system 44 comprising the E · O modulators 44a, 44b is thus controlled, whereby the cutting is conducted while following the sector address numbering method.

The sending order of the recording signals is an order that [(30011 h) header section → (30000 h) header section → (30000 h) groove sector recording section → (30021 h) header section → (30010 h) header section → (30010 h) groove sector recording section → one round is blank → (30033 h) header section → (30022 h) header section → (30022 h) groove sector recording section → ... the rest is omitted.

The concrete content of the (30011 h) header section will be described in reference to FIG. 3B. The header section is an emboss header in which not only 030011 h is recorded in the low order 3 bytes of PID 1 section (4 bytes) of Header 1 but 030011 h is also recorded in the low order 3 bytes of PID 2 section (4 bytes) of Header 2. The concrete content of the (30000 h) header section is an emboss header in which not only 030000 h is recorded in the low order 3 bytes of PID 3 section (4 bytes) of Header 3 but 030000 h is also recorded in the low order 3 bytes of PID 4 section (4 bytes) of Header 4.

A land/groove recording disk of a single spiral type can be fabricated by following the sector address numbering method. The disk has a series of sector addresses in a continuous manner wherein a first address is directly followed by a second address which is larger or smaller than the first address by 1 and the entire surface can be processed without any track jump or any seek in a continuous recording/reproducing mode.

However, as described above, in a land/groove recording disk of a single spiral type, there is a necessity for tracking polarity switch-over between any pair of adjacent track rounds. That is, in the (30010 h) groove sector recording section of FIG. 5, a tracking polarity is of a groove type, but portions which are subsequently illuminated with a light beam are of a groove polarity for the (30011 h) header section and of a land polarity for the (30011 h) groove sector recording section in tracking.

Switch-over in tracking polarity is conducted by a method in which sector bits in a header section is utilized, which is described below, in addition to the above described method in which the switch-over is conducted by use of a polarity of a $(A - B)$ signal.

The contents of the PID sections of headers are shown in FIG. 3B and PID 1 section is provided in Header 1, PID 2 section is provided in Header 2, PID 3 section is provided in Header 3 and PID 4 section is provided in Header 4. Each PID section comprises information of 32 bits (4 bytes). The bits are respectively indicated by b 31 to b 0, wherein b 31 is the highest order bit (MSB) and b 0 is the lowest order bit (LSB).

Eight bits (1 byte) from b 31 to b 24 of the whole from b 31 to b 0 which constitute a PID section is a portion where sector information, that is information on the sector is recorded. 24 bits (3 bytes) from b 23 to b 0 are a sector number,

that is a portion where information on a sector address is recorded.

The content of sector information will be described below. The b 31 and b 30 are reserved bits and for example, they are temporarily recorded with 00 b and a portion where it is reserved for recording some kind of information in the future. A letter b which follows figures 0 0 of the 00 b is an abbreviation of the word binary, which shows the number is of a binary notation. The bits b 29 and b 28 shows a physical ID number, and 00 b is recorded in the PID section, 01 b is recorded in the PID2, 10 b is recorded in the PID 3 and 11 b is recorded in the PID 4.

The bits b 27 to b 25 are a portion where a sector type is shown and a sector for read only is recorded with 000 b, a writable first sector is recorded with 100 b, the writable last sector is recorded with 101 b, a writable sector ahead of the last sector by one sector is recorded with 110 b and a sector other than the above described is recorded with 111 b, wherein sectors from 001 b to 011 b are held for reservation.

A sector for read only indicates a sector of the case where a data section is fabricated by embossment actually like a lead-in area portion. A first sector is a sector where switch-over in tracking polarity from land to groove or vice versa is performed. The last sector indicates a sector ahead of the first sector by one sector.

Further description will be given with use of the example of FIG. 5. Sectors indicated with sector addresses 30000 h, 30011 h, 30022 h, 30033 h, ... are writable first sectors. Sectors indicated with sector addresses 30010 h, 30021 h, 30032 h, 30043 h, ... are writable last sectors. Besides, sectors indicated with sector addresses 3000F h, 30020 h, 30031 h, 30042 h, ... are writable sectors ahead of the last sector by one sector.

Timing for a writable first sector to be required for tracking polarity switch-over can be generated from sector type bits which are a portion indicating a sector type. That is, a sector type is determined by reading the PID section in a header and a tracking polarity is or is not switched over to the other based on the determined sector type. Even when the first sector is not detected, switch-over timing is generated from a last sector ahead of the sector by one sector or a writable sector ahead of the last sector by one sector, which makes it possible to effect switch-over of a tracking polarity.

In detection of a first section in company with timing detection in tracking polarity switch-over, an IED section of 2 bytes is additionally provided as shown in FIG. 3B and thereby error detection can be effected. Therefore, a rewritable first sector can be detected with high reliability and tracking polarity switch-over on a single spiral disk can be realized in a stable manner.

If a PID section comprising PID 1 and PID 2 is grouped as a first half PID section and a PID section comprising PID 3 and PID 4 is grouped as a second half PID section and a sector address values recorded in the first and second PID sections are compared with each other, a result from the comparison can be utilized for tracking polarity switch-over.

That is, a first half header section for the (30000 h) groove sector recording section is the (30011 h) header section and a second half header section therefor is the (30000 h) header section. The (30011 h) header section of the first half header section is provided with the first half PID section in which the sector address 30011 h is recorded. The (30000 h) header section of the second half header section is provided with the second half PID section in which the sector address 30000 h is recorded.

The sector address 30011 h recorded in the first half PID section is larger in value than the sector address 30000 h recorded in the second half PID section. This relation is effective for all the groove sectors having the structure shown in FIG. 5. Therefore, when a header section is illuminated with a light beam, sector addresses in the first half PID section and in the second half PID section are read and the sector address in the first half PID section is larger in comparison of sector address values, a recording section which is subsequently illuminated can be judged as the recording section of a groove sector, which in turn can be used for tracking polarity switch-over.

A similarity can be met in the case of a land sector. For example, a first half header section for the (30011 h) land sector recording section is the (30011 h) header section and a second half header section therefor is the (30022 h) header section. The (30011 h) header section of the first half header section is provided with the first half PID section in which the sector address 30011 h is recorded. The (30022 h) header section of the second half header section is provided with the second half PID section in which the sector address 30022 h is recorded.

The sector address 30011 h recorded in the first half PID section is smaller in value than the sector address 30022 h recorded in the second half PID section. This relation is effective for all the land sectors having the structure shown in FIG. 5. Therefore, when a header section is illuminated with a light beam, sector addresses in the first half PID section and in the second half PID section are read and the sector address in the first half PID section is smaller in comparison of sector address values, a recording section which is subsequently illuminated can be judged as the recording section of a land sector, which in turn can be used for tracking polarity switch-over.

Described will be the case where, at this point, the above mentioned switch-over of a tracking polarity is not performed in an orderly manner, or the switch-over is intentionally not conducted, and an automatic track-hold is effected in a track.

For example, in the first sector shown in FIG. 5, when tracing with a light beam is conducted from the (30021 h) land sector recording section to the (30022 h) groove sector recording section, the track center of a land track is traced normally with the spot of the light beam in the (30021 h) land sector recording section as described above. Tracing with the light beam is conducted along the center line between header sections in a zig-zag shifted configuration comprising

the (30033 h) header section and the (30022 h) header section. In the (30022 h) groove sector recording section, a tracking polarity is first switched from land to groove and thereafter, the track center of a groove track is traced with the light beam spot.

At this point, if a tracking polarity cannot still be switched over from land to groove after the light spot traveled through the header sections in a zig-zag shifted configuration, track control is effected so that the light beam spot traces any of the (30011 h) land sector recording section and the (30033 h) land sector recording section and a normal track follow-up condition cannot be held any more. At this point, it is unforeseeable to which section the light spot is track-controlled since there are various factors such as then eccentricity of the disk, a track offset condition and the like which are influential.

Accordingly, when a light beam spot traces the track, intentionally provided is a track offset which has a magnitude of the order not to deteriorate recording/reproducing characteristics. That is, a light beam spot traces track centers of a land track and a groove track with a small deviation from a center toward the inner side of a disk when the light beam spot traces the land tracks and the groove tracks in the shape of a spiral from the inner side to the outer side.

In such a situation, if a tracking polarity is not switched over as described above, tracking control is effected from the (30021 h) land sector recording section to the (30011 h) land sector recording section through the zig-zag shift headers. After the tracking control, the light beam begins to trace a land track of one round from the (30011 h) land sector recording section and returns back to the (30021 h) land sector recording section.

Therefore, if a small track offset with a magnitude of the order which does not adversely affect the recording/reproducing characteristics is intentionally provided toward the inner side of the disk, the light beam spot can be made to trace while being held on the same track in the tracing order of 30011 h, 30012 h, 30020 h, 30021 h, 30011 h, ... and when tracking polarity switch-over is not conducted or even when tracking polarity switch-over is not satisfactorily conducted, a large deviation from a normal tracking control can be prevented from occurring.

In FIG. 5, an emboss data area is shown in a place, toward the inner side, spaced from the rewritable data area with the zig-zag shift header configuration described above. The emboss data area is a data area for read only, and is not of a sector format having a rewritable zig-zag shift header configuration but data are recorded in the sector format for a read-only disk. In the emboss data area, data are recorded with embossment comprising pits in a recess/protrusion profile. A coupling area comprising a mirror is provided in a space between the emboss data area and the rewritable data area.

In such an emboss area, for example, a reference signal, physical format information, disk fabrication information, disk supplier information and the like are recorded and the area is used as a lead-in area which can be read for information retrieval by a read-only player conventionally used. With such a provision, disk identification can be effected with ease by a conventional read-only player even when information recorded in a sector format with zig-zag shift headers cannot be read out by the player.

It is preferred in an optical disk of a land/groove recording type with a zig-zag shift header section that a so-called zoned CLV format or a so-called zoned CAV format can be used to serve a double purpose.

That is, by adopting a single spiral structure having a zig-zag shift header section, information can be recorded on a land and in a groove, as described above, and a recording capacity thereby is increased and access in a short time can be realized throughout the entire disk surface. On the other hand, a zoned CLV format or a zoned CAV format is suitable for high speed access since rotational speed of a spindle motor can be simplified. Therefore, if zoned CLV format or the zoned CAV format is used in combination with a single spiral structure having the above described zig-zag shift header section, further improvement on an access speed can be realized.

As shown in FIG. 6, for example, in a zoned CLV format, the surface of an optical disk is divided into a plurality of annular zones Z 0, Z 1, ..., Z 23. Information is recorded in the sector format of a single spiral structure with a zig-zag shift header section in each divided zone. A linear speed on the disk surface is controlled so as to be kept at a constant value in each divided annular zone while changing a disk rotational speed. Since it is easy to conduct information reading at a near constant linear speed by variable speed control for disk rotation with comparative simplicity in which a disk rotation speed is controlled at a constant value in each zone, high speed access can be realized.

However, when recording/reproducing are performed on an optical disk from a zone to a zone, there arises a necessity for a change in rotational speed of the spindle motor. For example, if there is a sector where information cannot be reproduced due to presence of a defect on a recording surface in a zone and no spare area (that is, alternate area) is available where information to be recorded in the sector as an alternate, it is required to conduct recording/reproducing over both of adjacent zones on the disk and thereby to change a rotational speed of the spindle motor.

A change in rotational speed of a motor requires a long time till a rotational speed is stabilized and as a result, a data access time is longer. A spare area is provided in each zone in order to eliminate such a harmful effect. For example, in the 24 divided zones described above, that is in z 0, Z 1, ..., Z 23, spare areas S 0, S 1, ..., S 23 are provided along the outside of periphery of each respective zone.

Table 1

Zone number	Sectors number	Head sectors number (HEX)	Inner side buffer area sectors number (HEX)	Data area number (HEX)	Data block number	Spare sector number (HEX)
0	17	3100	-	3100 to 377DF	1662	377E0 to 37D2F
1	18	37D60	37D60 to 37D8F	37090 to 3FB2F	2010	3FB30 to 401EF
2	19	40220	40220 to 4024F	40250 to 486EF	2122	486D0 to 48E0F
3	20	48E40	48E40 to 48F6F	48E70 to 51ADF	2234	51A10 to 5218F
4	21	521C0	521C0 to 521EF	52 F0 to 5B48F	2346	5B490 to 5BC6F
5	22	58CA0	58CA0 to 58CCF	58CD0 to 6566F	2458	65670 to 65EAF
6	23	65EE0	65E10 to 6540F	65F10 to 6FFAF	2570	61FB0 to 7084F
7	24	70880	70880 to 708AF	708B0 to 7B04F	2882	78050 to 7894F
8	5	78980	78980 to 7898F	789C0 to 8683F	2792	86840 to 8719F
9	26	871E0	871E0 to 8721F	87220 to 9279F	2904	927A0 to 9315F
10	27	931A0	931A0 to 931DF	931E0 to 9EE5F	3016	9EE60 to 9F87F
11	28	9F8C0	9F8C0 to 9F8FF	9F9D0 to ABC7F	3128	ABC80 to AC6FF
12	29	AC740	AC740 to AC77F	AC780 to B91FF	3240	B9200 to B9CDF

(continued)

Table 1

Zone number	Quantity of spare sector	Number of sector of outer side buffer area (HEX)	Final sector number (HEX)	LBA head sector	Number of data area of head sector (HEX)
0	1360	37D30 to 37D5F	37D5F	0	31000
1	1728	401F0 to 4021F	4021F	26592	377E0
2	1824	48E10 to 48E3F	48E3F	58752	3F580
3	1920	52190 to 5218F	521BF	92704	47A20
4	2016	5BC70 to 58C9F	58C9F	128448	505C0
5	2112	65EB0 to 65EDF	65EDF	165984	59860
6	2208	70850 to 70871	7087F	205312	63200
7	2304	7B950 to 7B97F	7897F	246432	6D2A0
8	2400	871A0 to 871DF	871DF	289344	77A40
9	2496	93160 to 9319F	9319F	334016	828C0
10	2592	9F880 to 9F88F	9F8BF	380480	8DE40
11	2688	AC700 to AC73F	AC73F	428736	99AC0
12	2784	B9CE0 to B9D1F	B9D1F	478784	A5E40

(continued)

Table 1

Zone number	Sectors number	Head sectors number (HEX)	Inner side area sectors number (HEX)	buffer	Data area number (HEX)	Data block number	Spare sector number (HEX)
13	30	89D20	89D20 to	89D5F	B9D50 to C6EDF	3352	C6EE0 to C7A1F
14	31	C7A60	C7A60 to	C7A91	C7AA0 to D531F	3464	D5320 to D5EBF
15	32	D5F00	D5F00 to	D5F3F	D5F40 to E3EBF	3576	E3EC0 to E4ABF
16	33	E4B00	E4B00 to	E4B4F	E4850 to F31AF	3686	F31B0 to F3E0F
17	34	F3E60	F3E60 to	F3EAF	F3E80 to 102C0F	3798	102C10 to 1038CF
18	35	103920	103920 to	10396F	103970 to 112DCF	3910	112DD0 to 113AEF
19	36	113B40	113B40 to	11398F	113890 to 1238EF	4022	1236F0 to 12448F
20	37	1244C0	1244C0 to	12450F	124510 to 13478F	4134	134770 to 13554F
21	38	1355A0	1355A0 to	1355EF	1355F0 to 145F4F	4246	145F50 to 148D8F
22	39	146DE0	146DE0 to	146E2F	146E30 to 157E8F	4358	157E90 to 158D2F
23	40	15BD80	158D80 to	158DCF	148DD0 to 16A57F	4475	16A580 to 16B47F
Total						76185	

(continued)

Table 1

Zone number	Quantity of spare sector	Number of sector of outer side buffer area (HEX)	Final sector number (HEX)	LBA head sector	Number of data area of head sector (HEX)
13	2880	C7A20 to C7A5F	C7A5F	530624	B20C0
14	2976	D5EC0 to D5EFF	D5EFF	584256	BFA40
15	3072	E4AC0 to E4AFF	E4AFF	639880	CD2C0
16	3168	F3E10 to F3E5F	F3E5F	696896	DB240
17	3264	1038D0 to 10391F	10391F	755872	E98A0
18	3360	113AF0 to 113B3F	113B3F	816640	F8600
19	3458	124470 to 1244BF	12448F	879200	107A60
20	3552	135550 to 13559F	13559F	943552	1175C0
21	3648	146D90 to 146D0F	148DDF	1009696	127820
22	3744	158D30 to 158D7F	158D7F	1077632	138180
23	3840	-	16847F	1147360	1491E0
Total	65392				

In Table 1, the zone numbers 0, 1, ..., 23 corresponds to the zones Z 0, Z 1, ..., Z 23 respectively and data for the zones are shown.

The sector numbers each show the number of sectors on one track round and an increment in the number is one in a next zone to the outer side. The start sector numbers each show the sector number of a start sector of each zone, that is a representation of a sector address in the hexadecimal notation. An inside buffer area sector number shows a sector number of a buffer area provided in the inner side of each zone. The buffer area is an area provided in an interface between zones and no data recording is conducted there. The sector numbers of the data area show sector numbers of areas where user data recording can be effected. Calculation of a disk capacity is to sum up data quantities of areas of this kind. The data block numbers which are expressed in the decimal notation, and which show how many ECC blocks (16 physical sectors) can be included in the areas where the user data recording can be effected.

The spare sector numbers each are sector numbers of spare sectors, which are expressed in the hexadecimal notation, and which are included in the spare area of a zone. As can be seen from Table 1, a sector with a larger sector number is located at an outer position in an optical disk and thus, the spare area described above each are disposed

in the outer side of a zone. The numbers of spare sectors each are the number of spare sectors expressed in the decimal notation.

The sector numbers of the outer side buffer areas each show sector numbers of a buffer area which are disposed in the outer side of a zone. The end sector numbers each are the end sector number of a zone expressed in the hexadecimal notation. The LBA start sector numbers, which are expressed in the decimal notation, shows the start number of a logic block address (that is, the sectors other than the buffer areas and the spare areas are numbered with a series of numbers wherein a first number is directly followed by a second number which is larger or smaller than the first number by 1). The data area number of the start sectors each show a number, which is expressed in the hexadecimal notation, and which is offset from a LBA start sector number by 31000 h in the hexadecimal notation, that is obtained by adding to the LBA start sector number with 200704 in the decimal notation.

As described above, in the embodiments of the invention of the present application, a spare area is provided for each zone and the switch-over can be performed without any change in disk rotational speed, whereby a shorter time in data access can be realized. As a preferred example in regard to the data shown in Table 1, there is a structure that each zone comprises 1888 tracks. In this case, no change in disk rotational speed is required in switch-over and all that is required is only to conduct a seek over the maximum of 1888 tracks.

As described above, according to the present invention, the first half header section (HF1, HF3) and the second half header section (HF2, HF4) are spatially disposed alternately in a zig-zag shifted configuration as shown FIG. 1A and thereby at least the following advantages are achieved: 1) that reliability in reading is improved by providing a margin in distance between adjacent pits; 2) that speedy cutting is realized by use of only one beam without use of a finer beam exclusively used for a header; and 3) that switch-over position between a land and a groove can be detected with ease. Thereby, a disk with high reliability in data recording/reproducing can further be provided. In addition, provided is a recording/reproducing optical disk recording/reproducing apparatus, in which data recording/reproducing is effected on the optical disk which exercises the above described operations and effects with precision and a high speed.

Claims

1. A data recording/reproducing optical disk characterized by comprising:

a first recording section (RF1, RF3, RF2, RF4), which is an area in the shape of a land formed on a spiral track, and in which data recording/reproducing is conducted;

a second recording section (RF5, RF7, RF6, RF8) adjacent to the first recording section, which is an area in the shape of a groove formed on the spiral track, and in which data recording/reproducing is conducted;

a first half header section (HF1, HF3), in which first address information corresponding to the first recording section is recorded; and

a second half header section (HF2, HF4), in which second address information corresponding to the second recording section is recorded, and which are disposed in a zig-zag shifted manner in pair with the first half header section,

wherein when the first half header section (e.g. HF1) and the second half header section (e.g. HF4) are located ahead of the first recording sections (e.g. RF2), both half header sections are located to assume a first positional relation relatively to the first recording section; and

when the first half header section (e.g. HF1) and the second half header section (e.g. HF2) are located ahead of the second recording section (e.g. RF5), both half header sections are located to assume a second positional relation other than the first positional relation relatively to the second recording section.

2. A data recording/reproducing optical disk according to claim 1, characterized in that when the first half header section (e.g. HF1) and the second half header section (e.g. HF2) are located ahead of the first recording section (e.g. RF2), the first half header section (e.g. HF1) is located at a position shifted relatively to the spiral track, on which the first recording section located, along a first direction and the second half header section (e.g. HF2) is located at a position shifted relatively to the same spiral track along a second direction different from the first direction, and

when the first half header section (e.g. HF1) and the second half header section (e.g. HF2) are located ahead of the second recording section (e.g. RF5), the first half header section (e.g. HF1) is located at a position shifted relatively to the spiral track, on which the second recording section located, along the second direction and the second half header section (e.g. HF4) is located at a position shifted relatively to the same spiral track along the first direction.

3. A data recording/reproducing optical disk according to claim 1, characterized in that when the first half header section (e.g. HF1) and the second half header section (e.g. HF4) are located ahead of the first recording section (e.g. RF2), the first half header section (e.g. HF1) is located at a position shifted relatively to the spiral track, on which

the first recording section located, by a half of a track pitch toward the inner side of the disk and the second half header section (e.g. HF4) is located at a position shifted relatively to the same spiral track by a half of a track pitch toward the outer side of the disk; and

when the first half header section (e.g. HF1) and the second half header section (e.g. HF2) are located ahead of the second recording section (e.g. RF5), the first half header section (e.g. HF1) is located at a position shifted relatively to the spiral track, on which the second recording section located, by a half of a track pitch toward the outer side of the disk and the second half header section (e.g. HF2) is located at a position shifted relatively to the same spiral track by a half of a track pitch toward the inner side of the disk.

4. A data recording/reproducing optical disk according to claim 1, characterized in that when the first half header section (e.g. HF1) and the second half header section (e.g. HF4) are located ahead of the first recording section (e.g. RF2), the first half header section (e.g. HF1) and the second half header section (e.g. HF4), in which the second address information located behind the first address information is recorded, are disposed in a zig-zag shifted manner, and

when the first half header section (e.g. HF1) and the second half header section (e.g. HF2) are located ahead of the second recording section (e.g. RF5), the first half header section (e.g. HF1) and the second half header section (e.g. HF4), in which the second address information located ahead of the first address information is recorded, are disposed in a zig-zag shifted manner.

5. A data recording/reproducing optical disk according to claim 1, characterized in that when the first half header section (e.g. HF1) and the second half header section (e.g. HF4) are located ahead of the first recording section (e.g. RF2), the first half header section (e.g. HF1), the second half header section (e.g. HF4), in which the second address information located ahead of the first address information is recorded, and the first recording section (RF2) are disposed in the order along a advancing direction of a laser light spot and

when the first half header section (e.g. HF1) and the second half header section (e.g. HF2) are located ahead of the second recording section (e.g. RF5), the first half header section (e.g. HF1), the second half header section (e.g. HF4), in which the second address information located behind the first address information is recorded, and the second recording section (e.g. RF5) are disposed in the order along a advancing direction of a laser light spot.

6. A data recording/reproducing optical disk according to claim 1, characterized in that when the first half header section (e.g. HF1) and the second half header section (e.g. HF4) are located ahead of the first recording section (e.g. RF2), the first half header section (e.g. HF1), the second half header section (e.g. HF4), in which the second address information located ahead of the first address information by one track round is recorded, and the first recording section (RF2) are disposed in the order along an advancing direction of a laser light spot and

when the first half header section (e.g. HF1) and the second half header section (e.g. HF2) are located ahead of the second recording section (e.g. RF5), the first half header section (e.g. HF1), the second half header section (e.g. HF4), in which the second address information located behind the first address information by one track round is recorded, and the second recording section (e.g. RF5) are disposed in the order along an advancing direction of a laser light spot.

7. A data recording/reproducing optical disk characterized by comprising:

a plurality of land sectors (RF1, RF2, RF3, RF4, HF1, HF3), wherein a predetermined number of land sectors are disposed on a spiral track on a disk along one track round and a land sector is an area in the shape of a land where data recording/reproducing is conducted and disposed on the spiral track, said land sector including:

a first recording section (RF1, RF2, RF3, RF4) and

a first half header section (HF1, HF3), which indicates address information of the first recording section, and which is located ahead of the first recording section; and

a plurality of groove sectors (RF5, RF6, RF7, RF8, HF2, HF4), wherein a predetermined number of groove sectors are disposed on a spiral track on the disk along one track round, the predetermined number of groove sectors are disposed in parallel to the predetermined number of land sectors in alternate manner, the plurality of groove sectors and the plurality of land sectors are disposed on tracks alternately continuously in a radial direction, one round of land sectors and one round of groove sectors being directly adjacent to each other, and a groove sector is an area in the shape of a groove where data recording/reproducing is conducted and disposed on the spiral track, said groove sector including:

a second recording section (RF5, RF6, RF7, RF8) and
 a second half header section (HF2, HF4), which has address information of the second recording section, and which is disposed ahead of the second recording section in a zig-zag shifted manner in pair with the first header section.

8. A data recording/reproducing optical disk according to claim 7, characterized in that when the first half header section (e.g. HF1) and the second half header section (e.g. HF4) are located ahead of the first recording section (e.g. RF2), the first half header section (e.g. HF1) is disposed at a position shifted toward the inner side of a disk by a half of a track pitch relatively to the spiral track on which the first recording section is disposed and the second half header section (e.g. HF4) is disposed at a position shifted toward the outer side of the disk by a half of a track pitch relatively to the same spiral track and

when the first half header section (e.g. HF1) and the second half header section (e.g. HF4) are located ahead of the second recording section (e.g. RF5), the first half header section (e.g. HF1) is disposed at a position shifted toward the outer side of the disk by a half of a track pitch relatively to the spiral track on which the second recording section is disposed and the second half header section (e.g. HF2) is disposed at a position shifted toward the inner side of the disk by a half of a track pitch relatively to the same spiral track.

9. A data recording/reproducing optical disk according to claim 7, characterized in that when the first half header section (e.g. HF1) and the second half header section (e.g. HF4) are located ahead of the first recording section (e.g. RF2), the first half header section (e.g. HF1), the second half header section (e.g. HF4), in which the second address information located ahead of the first address information by one track round is recorded, and the first recording section (RF2) are disposed in the order along a advancing direction of a laser light spot, and

when the first half header section (e.g. HF1) and the second half header section (e.g. HF2) are located ahead of the second recording section (e.g. RF5), the first half header section (e.g. HF1), the second half header section (e.g. HF4), in which the second address information located behind the first address information by one track round is recorded, and the second recording section (e.g. RF5) are disposed in the order along a advancing direction of a laser light spot.

10. A data recording/reproducing optical disk recording/reproducing apparatus characterized by comprising:

a data recording/reproducing optical disk comprising:

a first recording section (RF1, RF3, RF2, RF4), which is an area in the shape of a land formed on a spiral track, and in which data recording/reproducing is conducted;

a second recording section (RF5, RF7, RF6, RF8) adjacent to the first recording section, which is an area in the shape of a groove formed on the spiral track, and in which data recording/reproducing is conducted;

a first half header section (HF1, HF3), in which first address information corresponding to the first recording section is recorded; and

a second half header section (HF2, HF4), in which second address information corresponding to the second recording section is recorded, and which is disposed in a zig-zag shifted manner in pair with the first half header section, wherein when the first half header section (e.g. HF1) and the second half header section (e.g. HF4) are located ahead of the first recording sections (e.g. RF2), both half header sections are located to assume a first positional relation relatively to the first recording section, and

when the first half header section (e.g. HF1) and the second half header section (e.g. HF2) are located ahead of the second recording section (e.g. RF5), both half header sections are located to assume a second positional relation other than the first positional relation relatively to the second recording section,

said apparatus comprising:

light illuminating means (19) for illuminating the first half header sections, the second half header section, the first recording section and the second recording second section with a light beam;

control means (13, 28) for controlling a illuminating position of the light beam based on a change in characteristics of reflecting light of the light beam from the illuminating means (19) in order to direct the light beam to a predetermined position on the optical disk; and

data recording/reproducing means (28) for detecting a switch-over position between the first recording section and the second recording section based on a reflecting light reflected from the first half header section and the second half header section produced by illumination of the light beam from the illuminating means (19) and executing data recording/reproducing on the optical disk based on the detection of the switch-over position.

11. A data recording/reproducing optical disk recording/reproducing apparatus according to claim 10, characterized in that when the first half header section (e.g. HF1) and the second half header section (e.g. HF4) are located ahead of the first recording section (e.g. RF2), the first half header section (e.g. HF1) is located at a position shifted relatively to the spiral track, on which the first recording section located, along a first direction and the second half header section (e.g. HF4) is located at a position shifted relatively to the same spiral track along a second direction different from the first direction, and
- when the first half header section (e.g. HF1) and the second half header section (e.g. HF2) are located ahead of the second recording section (e.g. RF5), the first half header section (e.g. HF1) is located at a position shifted relatively to the spiral track, on which the second recording section located, along the second direction and the second half header section (e.g. HF2) is located at a position shifted relatively to the same spiral track along the first direction.
12. A data recording/reproducing optical disk recording/reproducing apparatus according to claim 10, characterized in that when the first half header section (e.g. HF1) and the second half header section (e.g. HF4) are located ahead of the first recording section (e.g. RF2), the first half header section (e.g. HF1) is located at a position shifted relatively to the spiral track, on which the first recording section located, by a half of a track pitch toward the inner side of the disk and the second half header section (e.g. HF4) is located at a position shifted relatively to the same spiral track by a half of a track pitch toward the outer side of the disk, and
- when the first half header section (e.g. HF1) and the second half header section (e.g. HF2) are located ahead of the second recording section (e.g. RF5), the first half header section (e.g. HF1) is located at a position shifted relatively to the spiral track, on which the second recording section located, by a half of a track pitch toward the outer side of the disk and the second half header section (e.g. HF2) is located at a position shifted relatively to the same spiral track by a half of a track pitch toward the inner side of the disk.
13. A data recording/reproducing optical disk recording/reproducing apparatus according to claim 10, characterized in that when the first half header section (e.g. HF1) and the second half header section (e.g. HF4) are located ahead of the first recording section (e.g. RF2), the first half header section (e.g. HF1) and the second half header section (e.g. HF4), in which the second address information located behind the first address information is recorded, are disposed in a zig-zag shifted manner and
- when the first half header section (e.g. HF1) and the second half header section (e.g. HF2) are located ahead of the second recording section (e.g. RF5), the first half header section (e.g. HF1) and the second half header section (e.g. HF4), in which the second address information located ahead of the first address information is recorded, are disposed in a zig-zag shifted manner.
14. A data recording/reproducing optical disk recording/reproducing apparatus according to claim 10, characterized in that when the first half header section (e.g. HF1) and the second half header section (e.g. HF4) are located ahead of the first recording section (e.g. RF2), the first half header section (e.g. HF1), the second half header section (e.g. HF4), in which the second address information located ahead of the first address information is recorded, and the first recording section (RF2) are disposed in the order along a advancing direction of a laser light spot and
- when the first half header section (e.g. HF1) and the second half header section (e.g. HF2) are located ahead of the second recording section (e.g. RF5), the first half header section (e.g. HF1), the second half header section (e.g. HF4), in which the second address information located behind the first address information is recorded, and the second recording section (e.g. RF5) are disposed in the order along a advancing direction of a laser light spot.
15. A data recording/reproducing optical disk recording/reproducing apparatus according to claim 10, characterized in that
- when the first half header section (e.g. HF1) and the second half header section (e.g. HF4) are located ahead of the first recording section (e.g. RF2), the first half header section (e.g. HF1), the second half header section (e.g. HF4), in which the second address information located ahead of the first address information by one track round is recorded, and the first recording section (RF2) are disposed in the order along a advancing direction of a laser light spot and
- when the first half header section (e.g. HF1) and the second half header section (e.g. HF2) are located ahead of the second recording section (e.g. RF5), the first half header section (e.g. HF1), the second half header section (e.g. HF4), in which the second address information located behind the first address information by one track round is recorded, and the second recording section (e.g. RF5) are disposed in the order along a advancing direction of a laser light spot.

16. A data recording/reproducing optical disk recording/reproducing apparatus, the apparatus uses a data recording/reproducing optical disk characterized by comprising:

a plurality of land sectors (RF1, RF2, RF3, RF4, HF1, HF3), wherein a predetermined number of land sectors are disposed on a spiral track on a disk along one track round and a land sector is an area in the shape of a land where data recording/reproducing is conducted and disposed on the spiral track, said land sector including:

a first recording section (RF1, RF2, RF3, RF4) and

a first half header section (HF1, HF3), which indicates address information of the first recording section, and which is located ahead of the first recording section; and

a plurality of groove sectors (RF5, RF6, RF7, RF8, HF2, HF4), wherein a predetermined number of groove sectors are disposed on a spiral track on the disk along one track round, the predetermined number of groove sectors are disposed in parallel to the predetermined number of land sectors in alternate manner, the plurality of groove sectors and the plurality of land sectors are disposed on tracks alternately continuously in a radial direction, one round of land sectors and one round of groove sectors being directly adjacent to each other, and a groove sector is an area in the shape of a groove where data recording/reproducing is conducted and disposed on the spiral track, said groove sector including:

a second recording section (RF5, RF6, RF7, RF8) and

a second half header section (HF2, HF4), which has address information of the second recording section, and which is disposed ahead of the second recording section in a zig-zag shifted manner in pair with the first header section, wherein when the first half header section (e.g. HF1) and the second half header section (e.g. HF4) are located ahead of the first recording section (e.g. RF2), the first half header section (e.g. HF1) is located at a position shifted relatively to the spiral track, on which the first recording section located, by a half of a track pitch toward the inner side of the disk and the second half header section (e.g. HF4) is located at a position shifted relatively to the same spiral track by a half of a track pitch toward the outer side of the disk, and

when the first half header section (e.g. HF1) and the second half header section (e.g. HF2) are located ahead of the second recording section (e.g. RF5), the first half header section (e.g. HF1) is located at a position shifted relatively to the spiral track, on which the second recording section located, by a half of a track pitch toward the outer side of the disk and the second half header section (e.g. HF2) is located at a position shifted relatively to the same spiral track by a half of a track pitch toward the inner side of the disk,

said apparatus comprising:

light illuminating means (19) for illuminating the first half header sections, the second half header section, the first recording section and the second recording second section with a light beam;

control means (13, 28) for controlling a illuminating position of the light beam based on a change in characteristics of reflecting light of the light beam from the illuminating means (19) in order to direct the light beam to a predetermined position on the optical disk; and

data recording/reproducing means (28) for detecting a switch-over position between the first recording section and the second recording section based on a reflecting light reflected from the first half header section and the second half header section produced by illumination of the light beam from the illuminating means (19) and executing data recording/reproducing on the optical disk based on the detection of the switch-over position.

17. A data recording/reproducing optical disk recording/reproducing apparatus, the apparatus uses a data recording/reproducing optical disk characterized by comprising:

a plurality of land sectors (RF1, RF2, RF3, RF4, HF1, HF3), wherein a predetermined number of land sectors are disposed on a spiral track on a disk along one track round and a land sector is an area in the shape of a land where data recording/reproducing is conducted and disposed on the spiral track, said land sector including:

a first recording section (RF1, RF2, RF3, RF4) and

a first half header section (HF1, HF3), which indicates address information of the first recording section, and which is located ahead of the first recording section; and

a plurality of groove sectors (RF5, RF6, RF7, RF8, HF2, HF4), wherein a predetermined number of groove sectors are disposed on a spiral track on the disk along one track round, the predetermined number of groove sectors are disposed in parallel to the predetermined number of land sectors in alternate manner, the plurality of groove sectors and the plurality of land sectors are disposed on tracks alternately continuously in a radial direction, one round of land sectors and one round of groove sectors being directly adjacent to each other, and a groove sector is an area in the shape of a groove where data recording/reproducing is conducted and disposed on the spiral track, said groove sector including:

a second recording section (RF5, RF6, RF7, RF8) and

a second half header section (HF2, HF4), which has address information of the second recording section, and which is disposed ahead of the second recording section in a zig-zag shifted manner in pair with the first header section, wherein when the first half header section (e.g. HF1) and the second half header section (e.g. HF4) are located ahead of the first recording section (e.g. RF2), the first half header section (e.g. HF1), the second half header section (e.g. HF4), in which the second address information located ahead of the first address information by one track round is recorded, and the first recording section (RF2) are disposed in the order along an advancing direction of a laser light spot and

when the first half header section (e.g. HF1) and the second half header section (e.g. HF2) are located ahead of the second recording section (e.g. RF5), the first half header section (e.g. HF1), the second half header section (e.g. HF4), in which the second address information located behind the first address information by one track round is recorded, and the second recording section (e.g. RF5) are disposed in the order along an advancing direction of a laser light spot,

said apparatus comprising:

light illuminating means (19) for illuminating the first half header sections, the second half header section, the first recording section and the second recording section with a light beam;

control means (13, 28) for controlling a illuminating position of the light beam based on a change in characteristics of reflecting light of the light beam from the illuminating means (19) in order to direct the light beam to a predetermined position on the optical disk; and

data recording/reproducing means (28) for detecting a switch-over position between the first recording section and the second recording section based on a reflecting light reflected from the first half header section and the second half header section produced by illumination of the light beam from the illuminating means (19) and executing data recording/reproducing on the optical disk based on the detection of the switch-over position.

18. A data recording/reproducing optical disk recording/reproducing apparatus according to claim 10, characterized in that the control means (13, 28) includes:

means for controlling a spot of the light beam so that the light beam is directed to a position deviated by a predetermined distance toward the inner side of the optical disk from the center of the spiral track when the spot of the light beam traces the spiral track on which the first recording section and the second section of the optical disk are disposed.

19. A data recording/reproducing optical disk recording/reproducing apparatus according to claim 16, characterized in that the control means (13, 28) includes:

means for controlling a spot of the light beam so that the light beam is directed to a position deviated by a predetermined distance toward the inner side of the optical disk from the center of the spiral track when the spot of the light beam traces the spiral track on which the first recording section and the second section of the optical disk are disposed.

20. A data recording/reproducing optical disk recording/reproducing apparatus according to claim 17, characterized in that the control means (13, 28) includes:

means for controlling a spot of the light beam so that the light beam is directed to a position deviated by a predetermined distance toward the inner side of the optical disk from the center of the spiral track when the spot of the light beam traces the spiral track on which the first recording section and the second section of the optical disk are disposed.

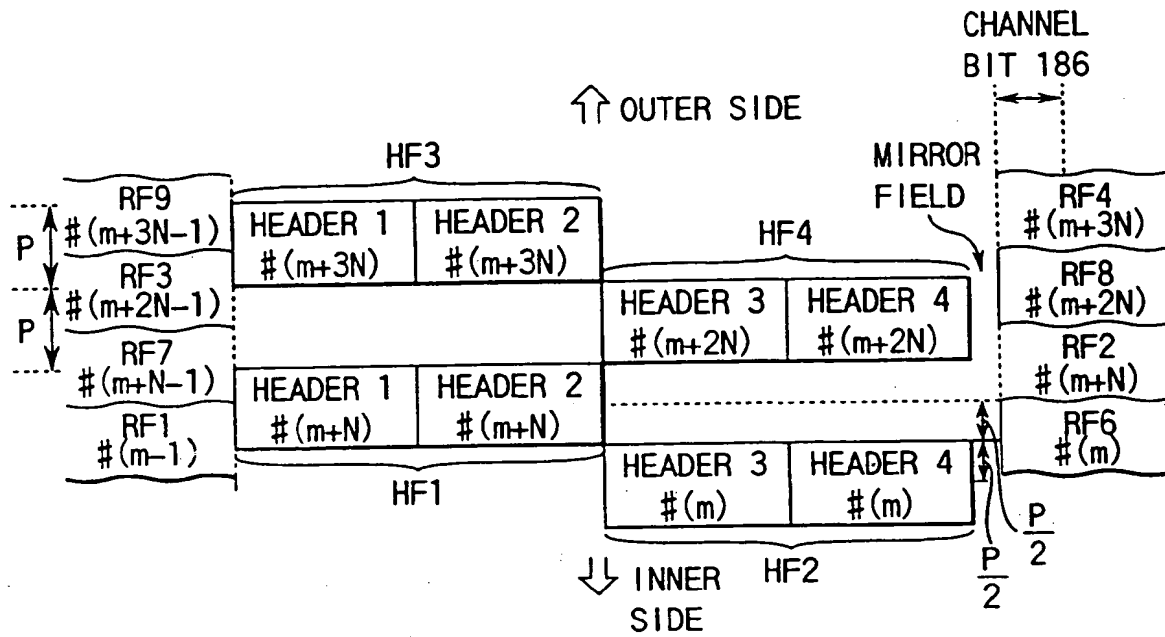


FIG. 1A

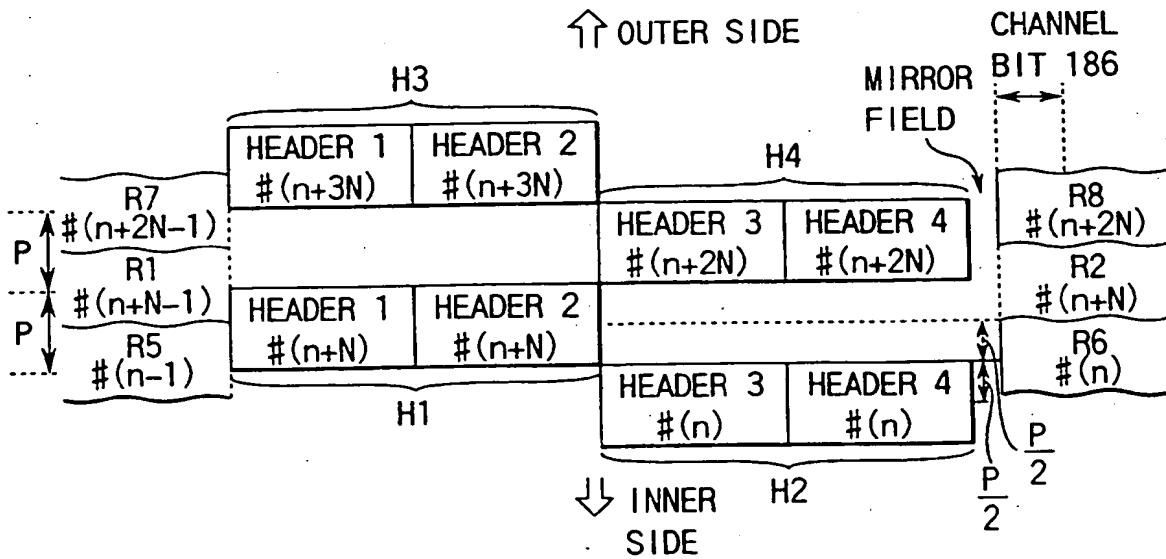


FIG. 1B

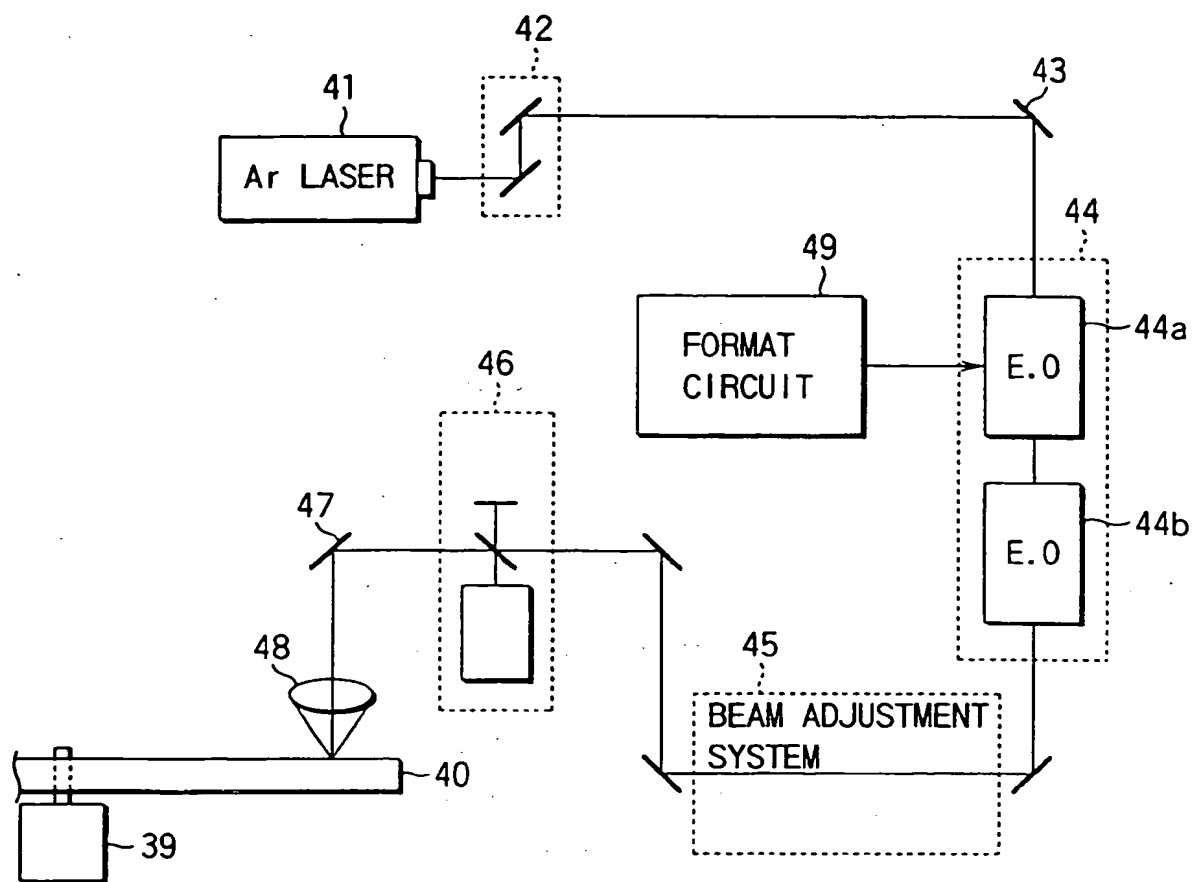


FIG. 2

RECORDING FIELD									
HEADER FIELD	MIRROR FIELD	GAP FIELD	GUARD 1 FIELD	VFO 3 FIELD	PS FIELD	DATA FIELD	PA3 FIELD	GUARD 2 FIELD	BUFFER FIELD
128	2	10+J/16	20+K	35	3	2418	1	55-K	25-J/16

J:0~15, K:0~7

FIG. 3A

HEADER 1 FIELD					HEADER 2 FIELD					HEADER 3 FIELD					HEADER 4 FIELD				
VPO	AM	PID	IED	PA1	VPO	AM	PID	IED	PA2	VPO	AM	PID	IED	PA1	VPO	AM	PID	IED	PA2
1		1	1		2		2	2		1		3	3		2		4	4	
36	3	4	2	1	8	3	4	2	1	36	3	4	2	1	8	3	4	2	1

FIG. 3B

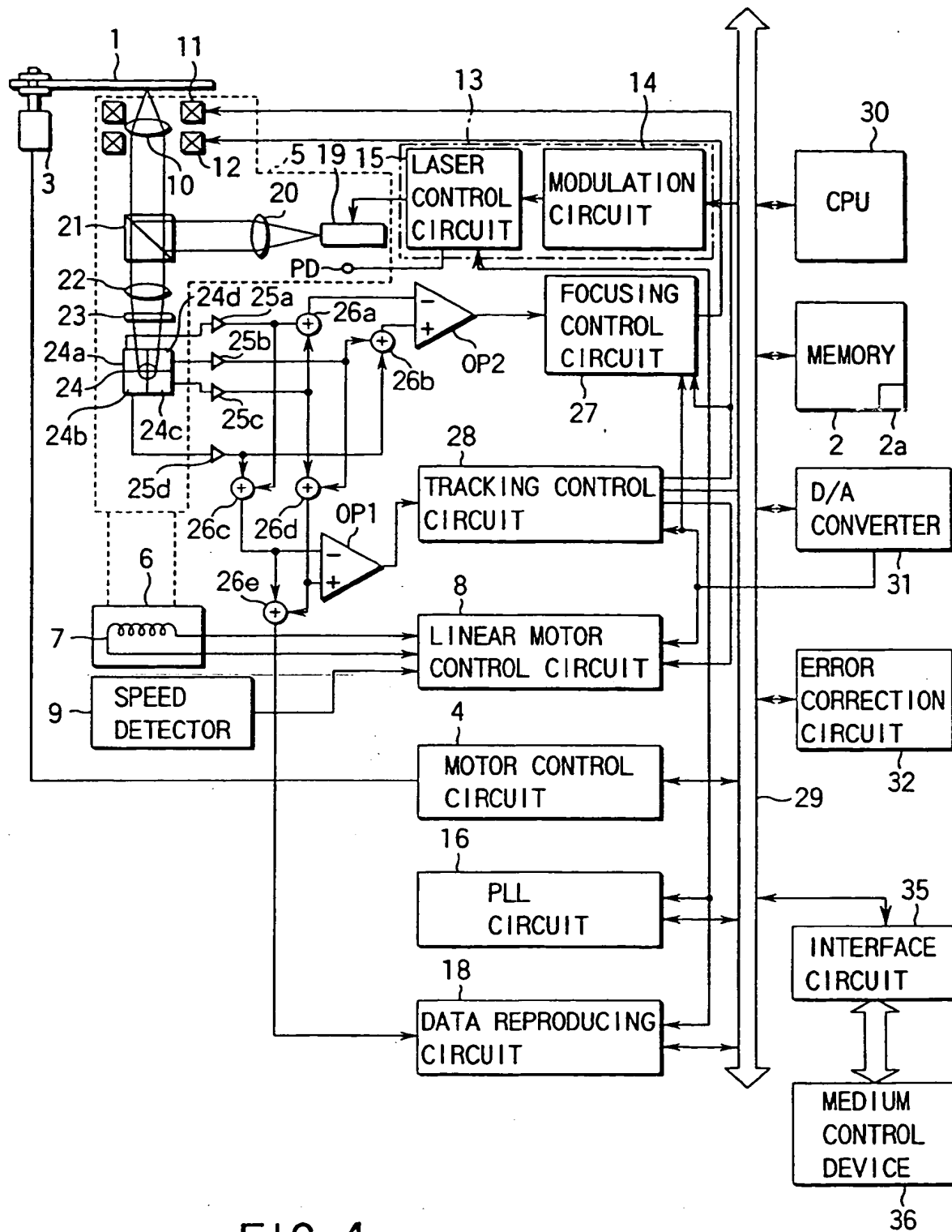


FIG. 4

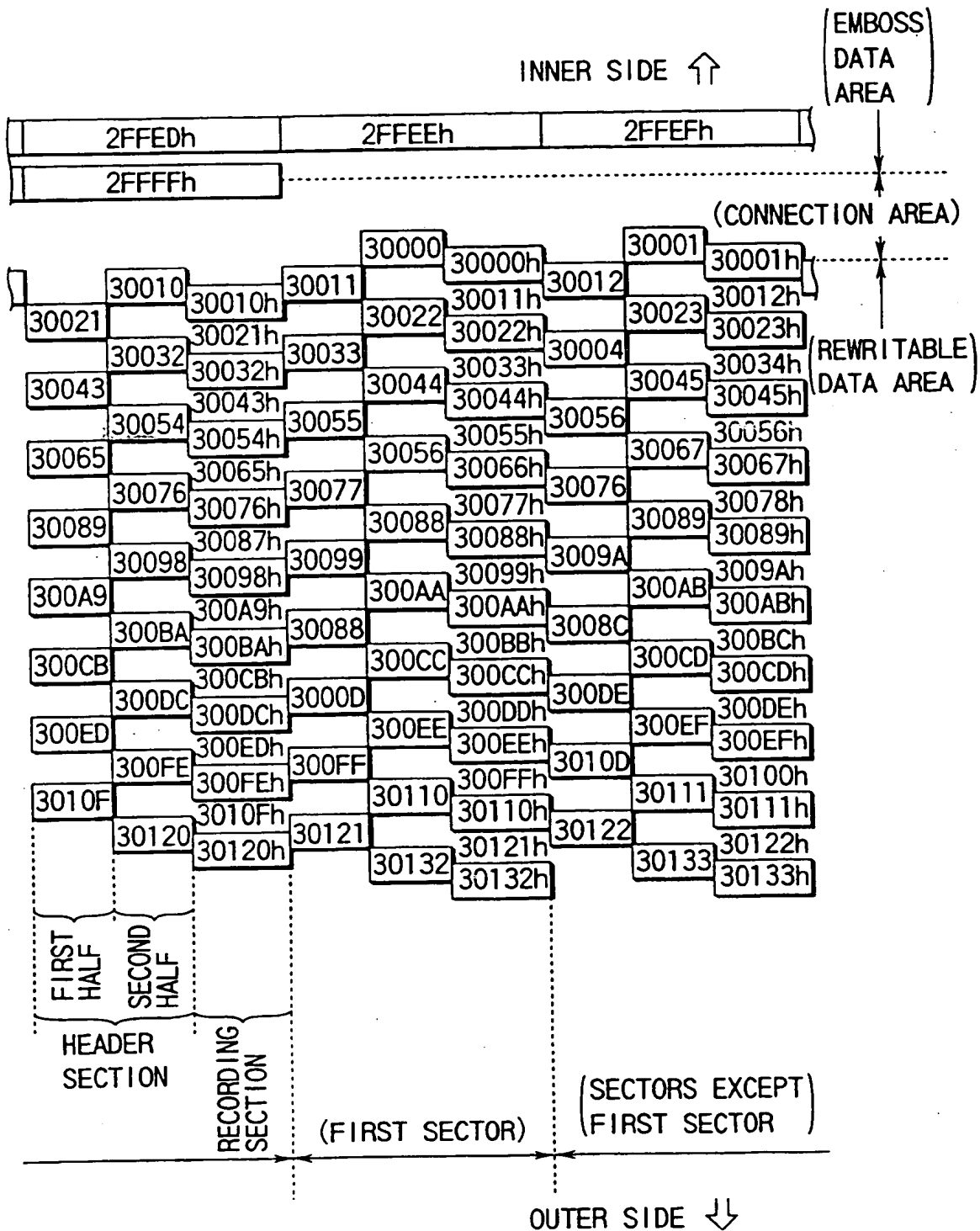


FIG. 5

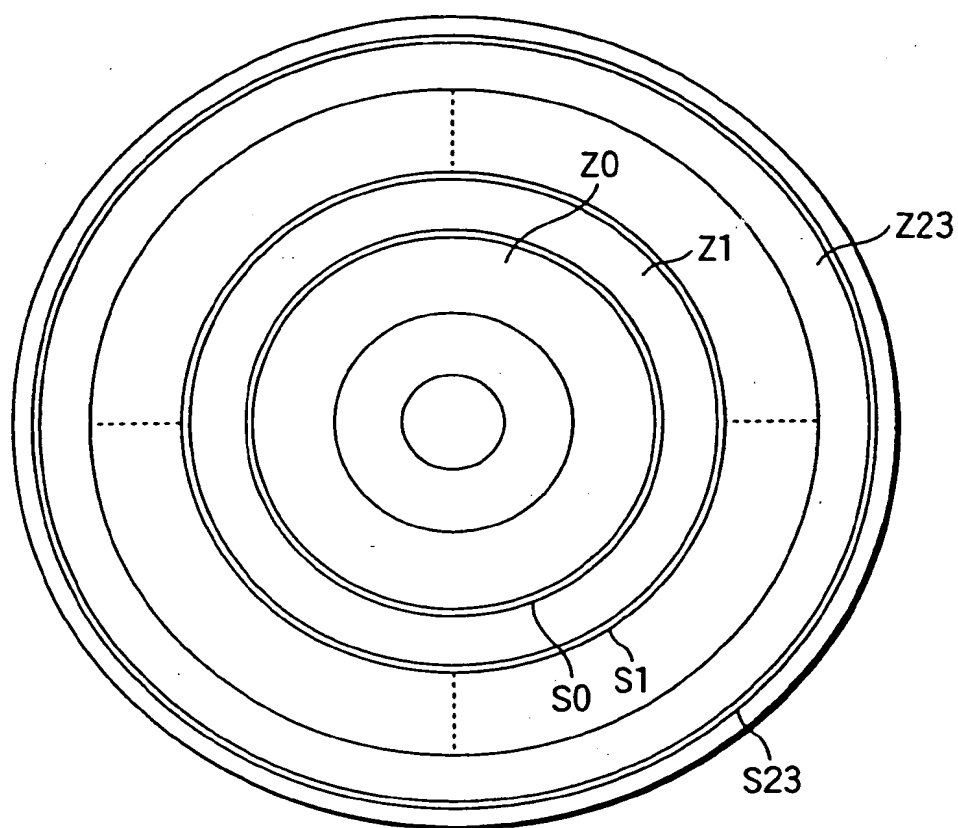


FIG. 6

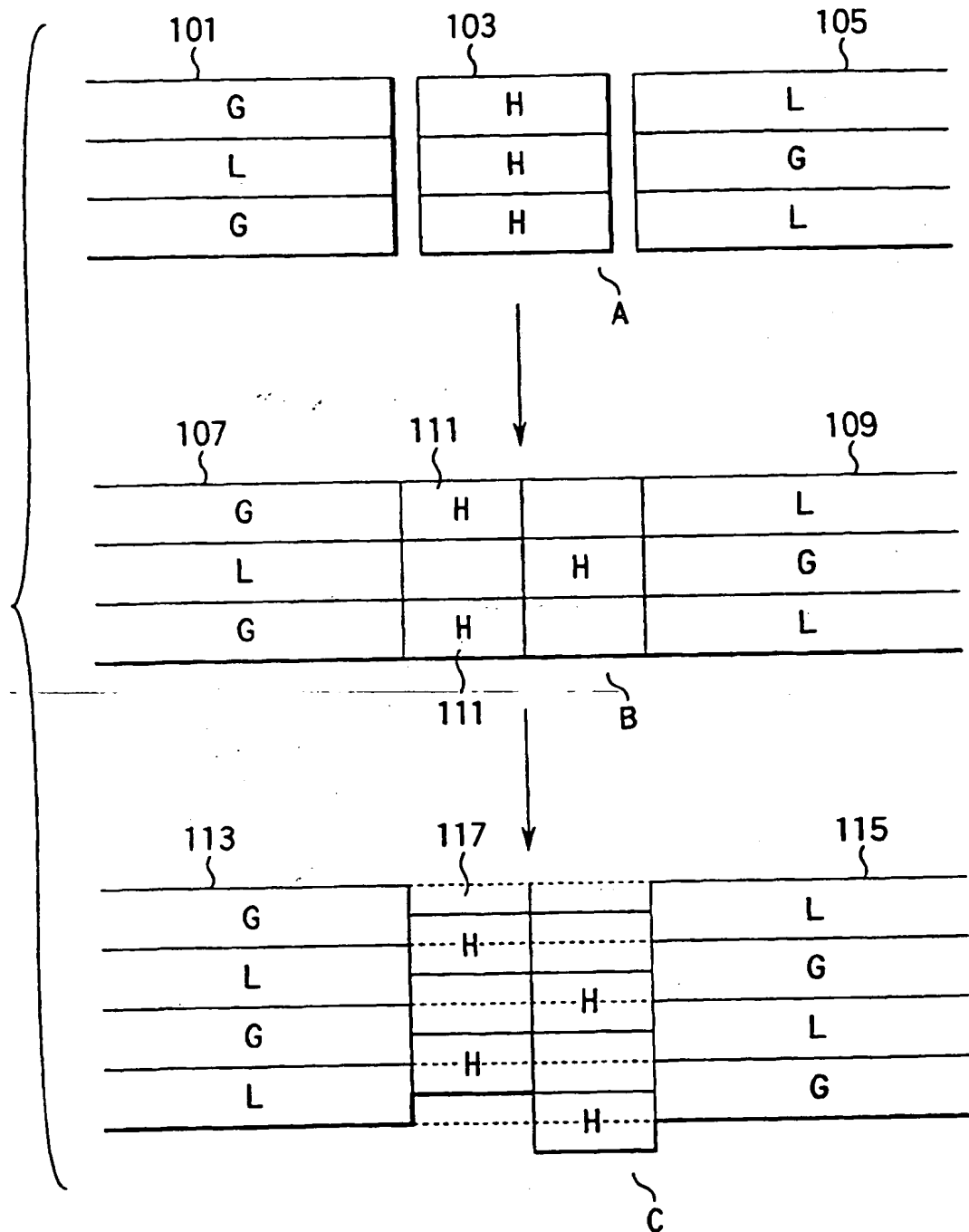


FIG. 7

FIG. 8A

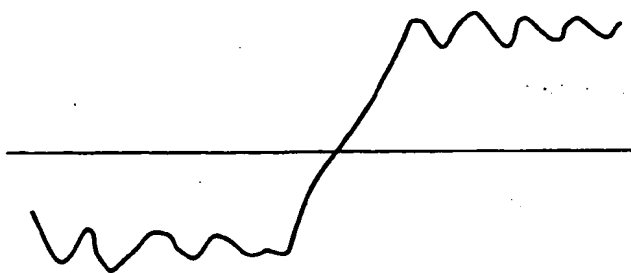
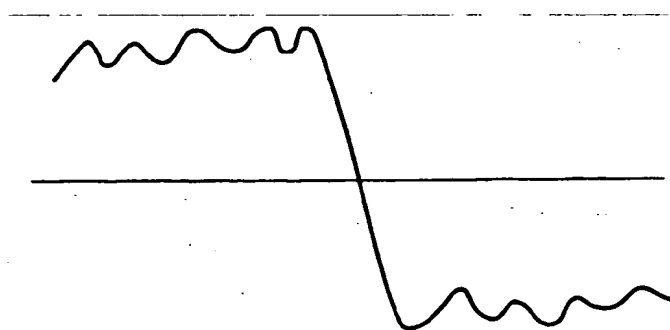


FIG. 8B



(19)



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(54) Recording/reproducing optical disk with zig-zag shifted headers, and recording/reproducing apparatus using same

(57) A recording/reproducing optical disk of the present invention comprises a first recording section formed on a spiral track in an area in the shape of a land, a second recording section formed on the spiral track in an area in the shape of a groove, the second recording section being adjacent to the first recording section, a first half header section in which first address information of the first recording section is recorded, and a second half header section, in which second address information of the second recording section is recorded, and which is disposed in pair with the first half header section in a zig-zag shifted manner, wherein the first half header section (e.g. HF1) and the second half header section (e.g. HF4) are located ahead of the first recording section (e.g. RF2) to assume a first positional relation relatively to the first recording section and the first half header section (e.g. HF1) and the second half header section (e.g. HF2) are located ahead of the second recording section (e.g. RF5) to assume a second positional relation other than the first positional relation relatively to the second recording section.

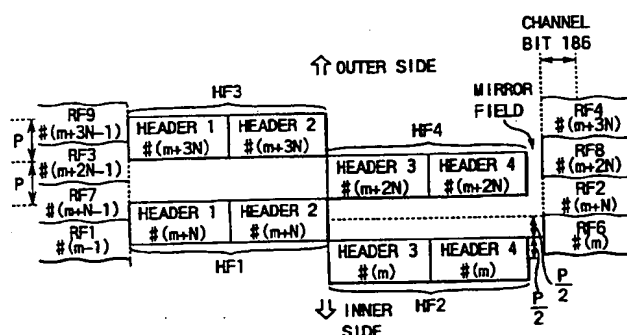


FIG. 1A

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European Patent
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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 98 11 0940

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
X A	GB 2 307 770 A (MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC CORP) 4 June 1997 * the whole document *	1-6, 10-15, 18 7-9, 16, 17, 19, 20	G11B7/007 G11B7/09
A	DE 196 48 692 A (MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC CORP) 28 May 1997 * the whole document *	1-20	
P, X	GB 2 312 320 A (MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC CORP) 22 October 1997 * the whole document *	1-20	
P, X	GB 2 311 644 A (MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC CORP) 1 October 1997 * the whole document *	1-20	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
			G11B
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 27 November 1998	Examiner Holubov, C
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

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